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East Asia

FBIS-EAS-90-233
Tuesday
4 December 1990

Daily Report
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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Japan

Kaifu: 'No Intention of Negotiating' on Hostages

OW0312132390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1302 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—U.S. President George Bush advised Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to beware of Iraq's attempts to divide the international community by exploiting hostages, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

President Bush's words of caution were delivered on the third day of an expedition to Baghdad by Japanese parliamentarian Antonio Inoki aimed at reuniting 39 Japanese with family members detained in Iraq.

In a letter delivered by U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost, Bush expressed appreciation for Kaifu's cooperation and leadership in the Gulf crisis, but cautioned against allowing Iraq to use hostages to weaken international solidarity, the Japanese official said.

Kaifu assured Armacost that Japan has "absolutely no intention" of negotiating over hostages, the official said. "Japan has adhered to the United Nations resolutions, and highly appreciates efforts made by President Bush to establish a dialogue with Iraq and seek a peaceful solution," to the crisis, Kaifu said.

The U.S. has indicated to Japan and other countries that it is unhappy with the series of recent trips to Baghdad by politicians hoping to free hostages.

A similar sentiment was expressed last month when former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone returned from Baghdad with 74 freed Japanese hostages.

Armacost said his 35-minute meeting with Kaifu was meant to brief Japan on the latest U.S. thinking regarding the Gulf crisis and unfolding developments. He specifically mentioned next week's planned meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In the letter, Bush reiterated his desire to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully but added that a partial solution would be unacceptable, the official said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Kaifu said he regards the U.S. plan for direct talks with Iraq as the "last opportunity" for Baghdad to heed international demand that it withdraw from Kuwait. Kaifu also told Armacost he welcomes Bush's plans to visit Japan, the official said. The official added that Armacost and Kaifu agreed on the need for cooperation if the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks are to end successfully in Brussels this week.

Japan Should Not 'Beg' for Release of Hostages

OW0412084090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Japan should not be placed in the position of having to "beg" Iraq to release its nationals held hostage there and in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"Why are they kept there? ... That should be explained first rather than our having to go and beg," Taizo Watanabe told foreign correspondents.

Watanabe was commenting on the current visit to Baghdad by 38 family members of Japanese hostages, led by House of Councillors member Antonio Inoki, the sole representative of the sports through peace party and a former pro wrestler.

"Mr. Inoki went there independently from the government," Watanabe said. "Our position is very much negative." The government wants Iraq to release all foreign hostages as soon as possible, he said. "But to give the impression like Inoki does that he's willing to 'deal' with them is something that is against our policy. "It is (Baghdad) that should take the initiative," Watanabe said. "They should release immediately all the hostages and follow the (United Nations) Security Council resolutions without any extra effort on our part." "If (Iraqi leader) Saddam Husayn had a heart to accept this kind of plea on the part of family members, he would have done so and he should never have kept (the hostages) against their will," Watanabe said.

A total of 114 Japanese nationals are being held as "human shields" in Iraq and Kuwait, while another 119 have been barred from leaving Iraq.

Watanabe said the Foreign Ministry has dispatched its top consular official to Baghdad for meetings with hostages and possibly with officials of the Iraqi Government.

Families Make 'Emotional Plea'

OW0312172290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1501 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 3 KYODO—The famililies of Japanese businessmen being held hostage by Iraq made an emotional plea to officials in Baghdad on Monday for the release of their loved ones.

Wives of 36 hostages told a female Iraqi official present at the meeting that all women share a common desire for peace in the world and that the cause would best be served by the release of their husbands.

The Iraqi official agreed with the sentiment but said the timing of hostages' release depends on President Saddam Husayn, who has promised to begin freeing all foreign captives on Christmas Day.

Members of 36 families of Japanese hostages began visits with their families at a hotel in Baghdad on Sunday after being brought to the capital from strategic points in Iraq and occupied Kuwait, Japanese sources said Monday.

Thirty Japanese hostages and their families stayed together at the Al-Mansour Melia hotel on Sunday night. But Iraqi authorities barred reporters from covering the family reunions.

Several Japanese hostages said they were told by Iraqi officials during their transfer to Baghdad that they were going to be set free, according to Japanese sources.

In Monday's meeting, wives started sobbing when Yuka Nakanishi, the four-year-old daughter of Kazuhiko Nakanishi, 33, a Japan Airlines employee taken hostage, told Iraqi officials, "I was happy to see Daddy yesterday, I want to come back home with him."

Meanwhile, Japanese Ambassador to Baghdad Kunio Katakura also met the captives at Al-Mansour Melia hotel on Monday, and a doctor stationed at the Japanese Embassy in Baghdad examined several of the detainees. Katakura said some of the hostages were suffering from high blood pressure and liver ailments.

Most of the relatives were accompanied by Antonio Inoki, a professional wrestler and a member of the House of Councillors who organized a two-day "festival of peace" in Baghdad.

The festival, which started on Sunday with soccer games, also includes rock music concerts and traditional entertainment from Japan and Iraq.

Gulf Situation To Affect Kaifu's Travel Plans

OW0412052690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0423 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—The planned visits by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to South Korea and Southeast Asian nations in January are likely to be cut short because of the volatile situation in the Middle East, government sources said Tuesday.

Kaifu originally planned to travel to South Korea on January 9 for a three-day official visit, including a one-day visit to the ancient city of Kyongju. Kaifu, however, is inclining to shorten his trip to South Korea and visit Seoul for two days from January 9, the sources said.

The government is also considering cutting short Kaifu's visit to member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), scheduled between January 13 and 20, so that it will finish before January 15, the deadline set in a United Nations Security Council resolution for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. The resolution approved the use of force by U.N. member nations if Iraq does not comply.

Kaifu's trip to Southeast Asia may be postponed should political and military tensions mount in the Middle East around mid-January, the sources added.

JSP To Send 'Senior Official' to Baghdad

OW0312134990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1315 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—The Japan Socialist Party [JSP] said Monday it will dispatch a senior official to Iraq this week to pave the way for a visit to Baghdad by party Chairwoman Takako Doi.

The JSP, Japan's biggest opposition party, has reacted cautiously to an Iraqi invitation for Doi to visit, but she is leaning toward making the trip, party sources said.

JSP International Bureau Chief Issei Inoue, a member of the House of Representatives, is scheduled to arrive in the Iraqi capital Thursday with two other JSP legislators.

Inoue has just returned to Japan from another trip to Baghdad, where First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed an invitation on November 27 for Doi to visit.

The JSP leadership has taken a cautious attitude to the invitation, considering the November 29 United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force to expel Iraq from Kuwait. The JSP, which hopes to be Japan's ruling party one day, has also been wary of possible damage to relations with the United States through the visit, party sources said.

But expectations that Doi will make the trip have been rising among young JSP lawmakers, as well as among families of Japanese businessmen taken hostage by Iraq who hope a visit by Doi would bring the release of their husbands and fathers, the sources said.

In the Monday meeting at which JSP leaders decided to send Inoue, Doi herself expressed her hopes for the trip, party sources said. The party leaders also requested that the government send Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu or an envoy from him to Baghdad.

Doi Prepared for Visit

OW0412110290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1043 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Niigata, Dec. 4 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party [JSP] Chairwoman Takako Doi indicated on Tuesday she is prepared to visit Iraq in an effort to win the release of Japanese being held by the Baghdad government.

A JSP mission led by the party's International Bureau Chief Issei Inoue left Japan for Iraq Tuesday to lay the foundation for Doi's possible visit to the Iraqi capital.

Doi told reporters during a campaign stop in this coastal town on the Sea of Japan that she is receiving a growing number of letters and telephone calls urging her to act on behalf of the hostages. "I'm ready for any hardship if there is anything I can do to serve peace in the Middle East and win the release of hostages," she said.

Doi received an invitation to visit Iraq from Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan during Inoue's trip to Iraq last month.

Kaifu Petitioned To Provide Food Aid to USSR

OW0412120390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—A newly formed Japanese parliamentarians' group to promote friendship with Soviet Sakhalin on Tuesday urged Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to offer food and medical assistance to Japan's "northern neighbor."

"Germany, Fance and other Western countries have already concretized plans to help the Soviet Union overcome severe shortages as it moves to introduce a market economy," the Sakhalin Friendship Parliamentarians League said in a petition to Kaifu. Noting that Sakhalin is closer to Tokyo than to Moscow, the 45-member suprapartisan group urged the government to offer necessary assistance to the Soviet far east island, north of Hokkaido.

The Foreign Ministry has indicated it is ready to offer medical aid, but not food assistance to the Soviet Union.

Ministry officials say that it is difficult for Japan to offer food aid because the Soviet Union is not eligible under Japan's official foreign aid program.

The Sakhalin Friendship Parliamentarians League was established last month to promote private-sector economic and cultural exchanges with Sakhalin. The group also hopes to help build trust between the two nations in advance of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan, planned for next April.

League chairman is Fumio Abe, a Liberal Democratic Party member of the House of Representatives from Hokkaido.

KYODO Correction to Watanabe Affirming Aid

OW3011134890

KYODO supplies the following correction to the item subheaded "Watanabe Affirms Medical Aid," published in the 30 November East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 1: Column two, fifth full paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...the postwar period, with the exception of a natural disaster-relief aid extended after the Armenian quake in 1988. [new graf]

The cabinet of... (adding additional material)

ROK To Allow First Japanese Performance

OW0412042590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Popular singer Tokiko Kato will be the first Japanese to be allowed by South Korean authorities to sing in Japanese at a charity dinner show in a Seoul hotel on Thursday, show organizers said Tuesday. She will also sing Korean songs in Korean.

Since the end of World War II, the South Korean Government has banned concerts of Japanese songs and showing of Japanese movies in view of strong anti-Japanese sentiment.

The Korean peninsula was a Japanese colony from 1910 to 1945, and during that period Koreans were forced to abandon their culture and use the Japanese language.

Records made by Japanese singers have to be rerecorded in English before being allowed onto the South Korean market.

The concert is expected to give fresh impetus to efforts to promote and deepen cultural exchanges between Japan and South Korea, the organizers said.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official said, however, that deep-rooted antipathy toward Japanese culture still exists among South Koreans, adding it is difficult for the South Korean Government to lift all restrictions on Japanese culture.

Ministry Suspends Former Seoul Embassy Counselor

OW0112011490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1348 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry has punished a police official formerly posted as a counsellor at the Japanese Embassy in South Korea for engaging in activities deemed unbecoming of a member of Japan's foreign service, officials said Friday.

Takeo Suzuki, 44, seconded to the post of counsellor from the National Police Agency, has admitted under questioning to passing on a payoff to an unidentified Korean man, officials said.

Suzuki and the man helped a Japanese businessman get back some 11 million yen in allegedly embezzled money from a South Korean business partner, officials said.

Officials said Suzuki has been removed from the foreign service and suspended from government work for three months without pay, after which he will be allowed to return to the National Police Agency.

Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Kenichi Yanagi and two others of Suzuki's superiors were given "strict warnings" for their failure to prevent the incident, the officials said.

Suzuki was quoted as saying during questioning in Tokyo that he regrets the impropriety of his actions. But he denied earlier reports that he had personally taken a kickback from the Japanese company president.

KDD Applies for Satellite Link With DPRK

OW0312150990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Kokusai Denshin Denwa (KDD), Japan's international telecommunications giant, said Monday it hopes to begin telephone service to North Korea in the middle of this month.

KDD agreed with Pyongyang authorities November 29 to open a direct circuit via Intelsat satellite between the two countries, and KDD applied Monday to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications for formal approval of the satellite link.

KDD will charge 1,620 yen for a three-minute station-to-station call placed by an operator.

It may introduce direct dial service later, depending on demand.

Tokyo Pledges Aid for Iranian Earthquake Victims

OW0312214790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1421 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 (KYODO)—Japan will give 1.5 million dollars in emergency relief assistance to Iran to help shelter the victims of the massive earthquake which devastated northern Iran in June, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

Officials said the aid is in response to a recent Iranian call to the international community for emergency assistance.

The June 21 earthquake left an estimated 200,000 homes beyond repair and 500,000 people homeless, they said.

Officials To Observe 16 Dec Elections in Haiti

OW3011135990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—Japan will dispatch two Foreign Ministry officials to Haiti to observe the elections scheduled for December 16, officials said Friday.

Officials said that the two will depart for the Caribbean nation a few days before polling day to participate in election monitoring activities as part of a United Nations observer mission.

There are hundreds of observers from the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), and nongovernmental organizations already in the country.

The officials said this will be the first time that Haitian elections will be comprehensively monitored by the international community.

Previous elections in the poverty-stricken nation since the 29-year dictatorial rule of the Duvalier family ended in February 1986 have been marred by intimidation and violence, they said.

This will be the third overseas dispatch of Japanese personnel for election verification purposes at the request of the United Nations, after observers went to Nicaragua in February 1990 and Namibia in November 1989.

In addition to the government's presence during the Haitian elections, the officials said that Japanese companies have contributed some 100,000 dollars in support of OAS activities, including provision of four-wheel drive vehicles and facsimile machines.

Kaifu Plans Relocation of Central Government

OW0412052590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0409 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in a bid to reduce congestion in the nation's capital, launched a private advisory committee Tuesday to plan the relocation of central government outside of Tokyo.

The six-member committee was established to help implement last month's Diet resolution calling for the transfer of parliament away from this city of 12 million to help alleviate high land prices. The committee is slated to offer its recommendations to the prime minister after three years of deliberation.

The six-member committee includes influential Liberal Democratic Party leader Shin Kanemaru, Gaishi Hiraiwa, incoming chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and Akira Yamagishi, president of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), Japan's largest labor organization.

In last month's resolution the Diet cited spiraling land prices, overcrowding, and sluggish economies in provincial regions as reasons to relocate the Diet.

Okinawa Assembly Adopts Anti-Gangsters Statement

OW0112005190 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 30 Nov 90 Evening Edition p 1

[Text] The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly held an extraordinary session at 1000 on 30 November. Ruling and opposition party members of the assembly unanimously adopted "a statement calling for crushing gangster groups." This is the third time that the prefectural assembly has adopted such a statement. The prefectural assembly, in the statement, asserted that "the arrogant actions of gangsters are a grave challenge to the law-governed state and should not be tolerated." The prefectural assembly, in the statement, also strongly called on central and prefectural authorities to take tough administrative measures to crush the gangsters and ensure the livelihood and safety of citizens, thus maintaining social order.

Explaining the introduction of the statement, Shigemasa Kinjo (of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party) pointed to escalating strife among gangsters, stressing: "An innocent high school student was killed on 22 November. On 23 November, two policemen on guard duty were shot to death. A housewife passing by was wounded by gunshots. That which we have most feared is actually occurring. Okinawans are stricken with terror and uneasiness." He added that "under this situation, it is difficult to create a peaceful social environment."

Speaking at the session, he called on the central and prefectural government to take tough measures to crush gangsters, stressing: "To crush the gangsters, it is necessary for police to crack down on gangsters and to cut off their financial sources. All people in the prefecture need to help create a society in which no violence is tolerated." The statement will be sent to the prime minister, the home affairs minister, the chairman of the National Public Safety Commission, the commissioner-general of the National Police Agency, the governor of Okinawa Prefecture, and the Prefectural Safety Commission.

Agency Urges Return of Stranded Dolphins to Sea

OW3011133290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1131 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—The Fisheries Agency on Friday urged Japanese fishermen who find live dolphins stranded on the beach or disoriented in a shallow bay to return them to the sea.

In a directive distributed to the nation's fishing cooperatives, the agency further directed the fisheries personnel to bury or cremate the carcasses of dead dolphins.

The instruction followed an international outcry earlier this month when hundreds of dolphins died or were killed near a small fishing village in Nagasaki Prefecture, western Japan.

The directive recognized in some locales a tradition of consuming dolphin meat, but said the meat should not be sold.

In burying or cremating the carcasses, the agency warned against procrastination.

In early November, members of the Miiraku Fishery Cooperative discovered some 3,000 dolphins in the bay just off the village on Fukue Island in Nagasaki Prefecture. According to conflicting reports, about 800 of the animals either beached themselves or were herded onto the beach, where 582 of the dolphins died or were killed. Others were returned to the sea.

Tests on four of the dead dolphins revealed a parasite infestation that may have led the dolphins to become disoriented and beach themselves, fisheries agency officials said.

The incident attracted worldwide media attention and criticism similar to a 1978 incident in which a group of Nagasaki fishermen slaughtered up to 1,000 dolphins, apparently because the animals damaged fishing nets and ate much of the fishermen's potential catch.

Supplementary Budget Draft for Ficsal 1990 Adopted

OW3011132790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0503 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—The government adopted a 2,281 billion yen supplementary budget draft for fiscal 1990, ending next March 31, during a cabinet meeting Friday morning, government officials said.

The budget is expected to be approved before the end of the year after the government submits it to the ordinary session of the Diet scheduled to open December 10, they said.

Sluggish tax revenues have forced the government to keep the 1990 supplementary budget far below the 5 trillion yen level registered for the preceding two fiscal years.

Because the government will issue an additional 750 billion yen in construction bonds, earmarked for such items as disaster relief expenditures, its reliance on government bonds will rise to 9.3 percent from 8.4 percent set in the original budget.

Total tax revenues will stand at 1,127 billion yen, with the estimated 3,000 billion yen increase in income tax revenues being offset by a drop below 1,100 billion yen in corporate tax inflows and slack consumption and inheritance tax revenues.

Under the draft, disaster relief expenses will total 627.8 billion yen, while salary increases for public servants will come to 459.3 billion yen.

Nonmilitary aid for the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf and to Middle East countries severely affected by the United Nations-imposed trade sanctions against Iraq, and other expenses related to the Middle East will total 190 billion yen.

As part of its aid package to the Soviet Union, the government will set aside 2.61 billion yen for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Defense spending will equal 1.021 percent of Japan's gross national product (GNP), the nation's total output of goods and services, to bring it over the 1 percent level for the fourth straight year.

Spending on defense will amount to 4,258.9 billion yen, up 99.5 billion yen from the amount earmarked in the original budget.

EPA Official Discusses Economic Outlook

OW0212093390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO— Economic Planning Agency [EPA] officials are still optimistic about Japan's economic outlook, but researchers at private economic institutes see trouble ahead.

Higher interest rates and crude oil prices are causing concern, as is a slowdown in U.S. economic growth.

Hideyuki Aizawa, the nation's chief economic architect as EPA director general, recently forecast that the current economic expansion, in its 48th month as of November, will surpass the 57- month "Izanagi" economic boom from November 1965 to July 1970, the longest in postwar history.

However, higher interest rates and lower stock prices have made it difficult for corporations to raise funds on the capital market. This in turn is expected to discourage them from investing in plants and equipment. Moreover, the surge in crude oil prices has increased costs at corporations and the outflow of their capital overseas, leading to weaker domestic demand.

The country's land prices—among the world's highest—may also combine with rising interest rates to dampen demand for housing.

Considering all these factors, "the Japanese economy should enter a recessionary phase as early as the January-March quarter," one economist at a major private institute predicts. He says the bursting of Japan's economic "bubble" shown by the plunge in stock prices and signs of falling land prices, coupled with higher interest rates and oil prices, and a recession in the United States, will sap profit margins at export-oriented industries. This will cool corporate enthusiasm about capital expenditures and slow growth of wage-earning households' income.

Growth in consumer spending is already starting to slow, according to recently announced economic indicators. Growth in real household consumption expenditures and new car sales has slackened, while condominium sales have turned sluggish.

Although the underlying tone of private capital spending remains strong, new machinery orders placed by the private sector are likely to drop 0.9 percent in October-December from the previous quarter after growing 0.4 percent in April-June and 12.6 percent in July- September. New machinery orders foreshadow the trends of capital spending six months in the future.

Corporations plan to spend only 2.5 percent more on plants and equipment in fiscal 1991, which starts next April, than this fiscal year, according to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), down from double-digit growth expected in fiscal 1990.

Most private economists see private capital spending as leading the current economic expansion, so, if MITI is right, the economy as a whole may put in a lackluster performance next year, at best.

North Korea

North Delegation Sends High-Level Talks Message

SK0412040090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0307 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Telephone message sent by Choe Pong-chun, responsible liaison official of the North side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks, to Kim Yong-hwan, responsible liaison official of the South side's delegation, on 4 December—read by announcer]

[Text] To Kim Yong-hwan, responsible liaison official of the South side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks. I inform you that I will come to the Tongil House, our side's area of Panmunjom, at 1000 on 5 December for both sides' responsible liaison official's contact in order to discuss the agenda for the third round of the North-South High-Level Talks, including issues for the fourth round of the working-level delegation's contact for the preparation of the third round of the North-South High-Level Talks.

[Signed] Choe Pong-chun, responsible liaison official of the North side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks

[Dated] 4 December 1990

Paper Denounces Move To Scuttle N-S Dialogue

SK0412111390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 4 Dec 90

["Team Spirit" Aggravating Confrontation and Danger of War"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—If the United States truly wants peace, it must withdraw the plan of the "Team Spirit" war exercises and pull its forces and nuclear weapons out of South Korea, demands NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article.

Recalling that the U.S.-South Korea "security consultative meeting" held recently in Washington decided to go on in future with the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test nuclear war against the North, the article says:

The decision of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to continue the large-scale attack manoeuvres at a time when the questions of removing the political and military confrontation and adopting a nonaggression declaration are under discussion at the North-South High-Level Talks is a premeditated move to scuttle the North-South dialogue, increase the tension and confrontation and lead the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of a war.

The continuation of the "Team Spirit" throws a dark shadow on the prospect of the North-South dialogue first of all. The "Team Spirit" is a war game for a preemptive strike at the northern half of Korea. A sincere dialogue cannot be held in an atmosphere fraught with the danger of an imminent war and even if a dialogue is held in such circumstances it can never succeed because it can only be used for confrontation. The history of the past North-South dialogue shows that the adventurous "Team Spirit" which is leading the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war has been the factor of breaking up the on-going dialogue.

The "Team Spirit" also increases the tension on the Korean peninsula and the danger of a nuclear war there.

The U.S. imperialists regard the Korean peninsula as the foremost nuclear attack base for executing their anti-socialist strategy and a main theatre for showdown of strength. The "Team Spirit" has been staged according to the military operation plan of the U.S. imperialists to carry into practice the aggressive Asia-Pacific strategy with South Korea as a forward nuclear base.

The fact that the U.S. imperialists' military exercise involving many combat units may go over to a real war of aggression any moment is clearly proven by their armed invasion of Panama.

"Team Spirit" and the U.S. Korean policy are the main factor of endangering the security in the Far East and menacing the world peace.

The U.S. imperialists' moves to aggravate the confrontation and tension in Korea and provoke a nuclear war there are quite contrary to the desire of the world people for disarmament, detente and peace.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets stage the "Team Spirit" war manoeuvres, ignoring the voices of the world people and the demand of the era, they will meet stronger denunciation as bellicose elements and splittists opposed to peace and reunification of Korea, dialogue and detente there.

South Reunification Group Explains Formation

SK0212101790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0816 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 2 (KCNA)—Delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters for the pan-national rally who had participated in the Berlin tripartite working level talks of the Pan-National Federation for Reunification (Pomminnyon) called a press conference in Tokyo on November 29, according to a (?VNS) report.

Explaining the circumstances of the formation of the federation, in the press conference they clarified that the "Pomminnyon" is an organization rallying the reunification forces in the South, North, and overseas, and made public an "article to the 70 million fellow countrymen".

They said the Berlin talks would have a positive influence on the North-South High-Level Talks, stressing:

We confirmed that historically dialogue between the governments has limitations and that the popular masses should be the driving force of reunification.

We will give precedence to the movement for removing the political and military confrontation, an obstacle to the reunification, they said, noting that "Pomminnyon" is a reunification movement organization.

As regards the proposal for reunification through confederation, they said:

The confederation is to recognise each other's systems. It is to reunify the country independently free from foreign forces with the stand of national self-determination. Under the present-day situation there can be neither "reunification by "communizing" [quotation marks as received] the South nor reunification with the North absorbing the South or being absorbed.

As clarified in the July 4 North-South joint statement, reunification should be realized on the basis on self-determination and peacefully by achieving national unity.

The "article to the 70 million fellow countrymen" is poetic and in it they pointed out that the Berlin tripartite working-level talks was one to frustrate all sorts of wrong myth, humbug, intrigues, plot and falsity on reunification.

Arrest of South Activists Viewed

SK0212015590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally issued a statement today denouncing the South Korean authorities for whisking away the three delegates of the South side to the Berlin tripartite working-level talks of the Pan-National Federation for Reunification on November 30.

Noting that Yi Hae-hak, Cho Yong-sul and Cho Sung-u, delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters for the PNR [pan-national rally], participated in the Berlin tripartite talks to discuss the formation of the Pan-National Federation for Reunification, the statement praises this as a righteous action reflecting the unshakable desire and will of the whole nation to make the 1990s a decade of national reunification.

The statement says:

This notwithstanding, the South Korean authorities handcuffed and took to prison from the airport the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters upon their return home after meeting us and discussing the reunification question with us abroad. This is an unpardonable challenge to and outspoken treachery against the whole nation's desire for reunification.

Branding as an anti-national, anti-reunification criminal act the South Korean authorities' rash act in whisking away the delegates, charging their meeting with fellow countrymen and discussing matters of reunification with "violating and breaking the present law," at a time when multi-channeled dialogues for reunification are currently under way between the North and the South and travels of personages of broad strata and exchange are being realized, I vehemently condemn this with bitter national indignation.

It is entirely natural that the South side's promotion headquarters for the PNR initiated the Berlin tripartite talks and its delegates met with the delegates from the North and overseas sides at the talks. On no account can they be charged with it.

As to the South Korean authorities' talk about unauthorized meeting of the South Side's promotion headquarters with us, it is an absolute baloney that could be uttered by fanatical separatist dictators.

It is the height of impudence to talk about someone's "approval" for the discussion of the reunification question between fellow countrymen desirous of the country's reunification and invoke the law in this connection.

As for the meeting with us of the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters of the pan-national rally without the authorities' "approval", the vesponsibility for this rests entirely with the South Korean authorities.

Since the South Korean authorities had not accepted their application for contact with us they had no other choice but to meet with us abroad. The South Korean authorities, however, arrested them on the charge of the "violation and breach of the present law", which cannot be justified with anything.

The arrest of the delegates by the South Korean authorities is totally contradictory to the "policy" advertised by themselves, too.

Even the "rules on North-South exchange and cooperation" the South Korean authorities are now loudly advertising, stipulate that if those who had contact with citizens of the North during their travel abroad without an advance approval of the authorities find it difficult to present a report on its results within the set time, they shall report about it by telephone or letter before submitting a report.

It is a gross violation of "law" by the South Korean authorities themselves that they whisked away the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters as soon as they alighted from the plane, without giving them time to present a report to the authorities in Seoul.

It cannot be overlooked that the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters were arrested on the charge of having discussed the reunification question with fellow countrymen without authorities' prior approval at a time when the high-level talks with the participation of the premiers are being held alternately in Seoul and Pyongyang for the first time in 45 years after the division of the country into the North and the South, the question of removing political and military confrontation between the North and the South and realising multilateral cooperation and exchange is under discussion and the nation's desire for reunification has mounted to the highest tide ever with the pan-national rally, soccer games for reunification and pan-national concert for reunification as occasions.

This fully shows that the South Korean authorities, though they are loudly talking about reunification, are actually trying to monopolize dialogue and abuse it for their sinister political purpose to perpetuate national division and stay long in power.

The South Korean authorities must know that with no attempt can they block the road of civilian dialogue and gratify their wild desire for "unified channel of dialogue".

If they do not want to face a stern judgement by the nation and meet with a disgraceful end, the South Korean authorities, before it is too late, must look straight at the trend of the time and immediately and unconditionally release all the pro-reunification patriotic persons including the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters to the pan-national rally, woman student Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon who have been taken into custody.

Further on 'Highhanded Arrest'

SK0412110890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—If the South Korean authorities truly have even the slightest intention to have a dialogue with us and seek a negotiated settlement of the reunification question, they should stop at once the suppression of the patriotic figures in the reunification movement, set free the arrested delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters for the pan-national rally at an earlier date and immediately and unconditionally release the visitors to the North including Yim Su-kyong and Mun Kyu-hyon and all other illegally jailed patriotic personages for reunification, stated the spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in his statement dated December 4.

What the South side's delegates did at the Berlin tripartite working-level talks was open from beginning to end and, accordingly, they can never be incriminated, the statement noted, and went on:

Nevertheless, the South Korean fascist group arrested the patriotic champions for reunification at the airport in broad daylight for the mere reason that they contacted us. This is, indeed, an intolerable criminal act against the nation.

This happened at a time when multi-channeled dialogues are under way between the North and the South, enthusiasm for reunification is growing stronger among the fellow countrymen at home and abroad and the "traditional concert for reunification seeing 1990 out" due in Seoul is at hand.

Such a harsh repressive step taken by the South Korean rulers this time against the patriots who went back after discussing the reunification question abroad cannot be construed otherwise than a serious case spoiling the atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity and casting a dark shadow over the North-South dialogue.

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland brands the South Korean fascist group's highhanded arrest of the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters for the Pan-National Federation for Reunification (Pomminnyon) who did things favourable for the cause of national reunification as an anti-dialogue and anti-reunification act seeking confrontation and vehemently denounces this.

The prospect of the North-South dialogue and that of the North-South relations depend entirely on the attitude of the South Korean authorities.

If the South Korean authorities persist in the fascist and splittist acts refusing to release the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters for the pan-national rally, defying our just warnings, they will be entirely responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

Arrest Protested in South

SK0212120090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0759 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 2 (KCNA)—The South side's promotion headquarters of the pan-national rally held a meeting in welcome of the delegation to the Berlin tripartite working-level talks of the Pan-National Federation for Reunification (Pomminnyon) at Yonsei University in Seoul on November 29 and denounced brutal suppression by the South Korean authorities, according to a radio report from Seoul. At the meeting they said the authorities revealed the anti-reunification nature of the present "regime" when they whisked away the South side's delegates Yi Hae-hak, Cho Yong-sul and Cho Song-u from Kimpo Airport after they participated in the Berlin tripartite working-level talks of "Pomminnyon", and strongly demanded that the authorities immediately release all of them.

They explained the achievements of the Berlin tripartite working-level talks held with the attendance of the delegates from the North and the South and overseas and called for the realization of free travel, and full-scale opening between the North and the South and adoption of a nonaggression declaration.

On the same day the National Teachers Union (Chongohyop) in a statement charged that the authorities' arrest of the South side's delegates to the Berlin tripartite working-level talks "Pomminnyon" is an act throwing a wet blanket over the maturing efforts for reunification and demanded their unconditional and immediate release.

KCNA Reports on Inter-Korean Sports Talks

SK2911235890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Panmunjom November 29 (KCNA)—The first inter-Korean sports talks for discussing the formation of unified teams to compete in major international games including the 41st world table tennis championships, the 25th Olympic Games and the 3rd Winter Asiad were held at the Tongil House in the northern portion of Panmunjom today according to the agreement reached during the North-South reunification soccer games.

In his keynote speech at the talks Kim Hyong-chin, head of our side's delegation, proposed the South side to agree to the following three principles to be observed by both sides in forming the unified teams:

Firstly, unified teams shall be formed on the principle of avoiding North-South confrontation and contributing to national reconciliation, unity and reunification.

Secondly, the North and the South shall make it a rule to participate in major international games (including major international games in Pyongyang and Seoul) as unified teams.

Thirdly, the North and the South shall not give up participating in games as unified teams halfway but shall continue it till the country is reunified.

The head of our side's delegation came up with drafts of agreements on the participation of North-South unified teams in the 41st world table tennis championships, the Asian regional soccer preliminaries of the 25th Olympic Games and the 6th world junior (under 20) soccer championships including "an agreement on the formation and participation of North-South unified teams" and proposed to discuss them.

In these draft agreements our side suggested that the North-South unified team be called "Koria" in Korean and be written "Korea" in Roman letters (abbrev. "Kor"), the flag of the team be a Korean map in blue on a white canvas and the song of the team be "Arirang," a song widely sung in Korea in the 1920s.

Our side proposed to finish the selection of the North-South single team for the 41st world table tennis championships by the 15th of February, 1991, the single team for the Asian regional soccer preliminaries of the 25th Olympiad by the 10th of March, 1991, and the single team for the 6th world junior soccer championships by the 31st of March, 1991.

Our side then put forward drafts of letters to be sent in the name of both sides to the International Olympic Committee, the International Table Tennis Federation, the International Football Federation and the Asian Football Federation on the question of the formation of North-South single teams.

The head of our side's delegation proposed to discuss and resolve first the question of sending single teams to major international games because time is short for them and then continue to agree upon the question of North-South sports exchange on the basis of concrete proposals.

At the talks the chief delegate of the South side proposed to put the question of regularising the reunification football games and the question of North-South sports exchange on the agenda as its first item and the question of forming a signle team of the North and the South for the 41st world table tennis championships as the second item and produced a draft agreement on it.

Our side expressed regret at the fact the the South side, unilaterally reversing the joint agreement published during the reunification football games held in Pyongyang and Seoul in October, proposed to discuss first the question of North-South sports exchange and relegated to the second place the formation of a single team and, worse still, confined it to the 41st world table tennis championships, excluding other major international games.

Our side said that the agenda of the talks should be based on the joint agreement bearing the signatures of the sports authorities of both sides and it would be an emergency case to reverse it.

The South side, however, insisted on its unjust stand, repeating its far-fetched demand to "begin with easy things."

Our side proposed to have the second North-South sports talks on December 20. But the South side insisted on having it in mid-January next year.

In face of the repeated just assertions of our side, the South side answered that it would discuss the matter back home and notify the date of the talks to our side by the direct telephone link.

After the talks head of our side's delegation Kim Hyong-chin gave a news briefing to home and foreign reporters.

Efforts To Undermine DPRK-Japan Ties Deplored

SK0112060290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today assails the No Tae-u group's anti-national separatist moves at the recent 15th Japan-South Korea "regular ministerial meeting" in Seoul.

The news analyst says:

The traitor No told ministers of the Japanese side that the normalization of relations between the DPRK and Japan should not be clinched hastily but be promoted in step with the progress of North-South dialogue.

The puppet foreign minister of South Korea said in his "keynote speech" at the "meeting" that as a hasty improvement of DPRK-Japan relations is fraught with "a big danger of being embroiled in the tactics" of the North, they "hope the Japanese side will approach it with a prudent attitude," paying "heed" to the "five-point consideration" including "the signing of a nuclear safeguards accord" by the North.

The South Korean puppets presented such nonsensical "five-point precondition" even at a "regular ministerial meeting" with Japan. This is an insidious attempt to drive a wedge between DPRK and Japan in the talks for the improvement of relations and enlist the help of Japan in maintaining the tensions and pursuing the policy of confrontation and division on the Korean peninsula. This only reveals their dark intention to keep the U.S. Forces in South Korea and bolster up the colonial military fascist dictatorship by maintaining the state of confrontation and division.

The South Korean rulers who should have gladly welcomed as the same fellow countrymen the development in which the question of DPRK-Japan relations that had long remained unsolved due to the national division is now being resolved in favor of the cause of national reunification are rather haggling over it. This is an unpardonable anti-national, anti-reunification criminal act.

The No group is making desperate efforts to mislead the DPRK-Japan talks for normalization of relations to North-South confrontation and creation of "two Koreas" at any cost because, if the work for improvement of DPRK-Japan relations oriented toward reunification progresses smoothly, the script of heightening tensions and creating "two Koreas" on the Korean peninsula written by its master, the United States, could not be carried into practice.

The Korean people will never tolerate the South Korean puppets' anti-national acts aimed at perpetuating the division of the country and hindering the normalization of relations between the DPRK and Japan.

The South Korean puppets must ponder over what dear prices they will have to pay for their acts in unjustly obstructing the normalization of relations between the DPRK and Japan which is in accord with the trend of the times and which enjoys support and welcome of peoples in the two countries and of the broad world people, for their criminal acts in going against the desire and aspirations of the fellow countrymen for reunification, and stop acting rashly.

O Chin-u Greets Cuba's Raul Castro Ruz

SK0112120190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutinary Armed Forces of Cuba.

The message says:

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba which put an end to the fascist rule of the pro-U.S. dictatorial regime and won the victory of the revolution have firmly defended in the past 34 years the revolutionary achievements and the country's security, resolutely frustrating repeated provocation moves of imperialists including U.S. imperialism and their stooges.

Today the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba are reliably guaranteeing the struggle of the Cuban people for defending the socialist principle and the country's dignity, realising territorial integrity and safeguarding peace in the Caribbean region and Central America.

The message expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean and Cuban peoples and armies forged in the course of the common struggle against U.S. imperialism will grow stronger and develop.

Kim Chong-il Names Pyongyang-Born Cuban Baby

SK2911010590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyong November 28 (KCNA)—A Cuba baby born at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital on November 9. Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il named the baby Saebyol (the morning star), hoping that it will be a "child of friendship" shining always like a morning star in the relations of friendship and solidarity between Korea and Cuba, and sent it a gift imbued with love.

The baby's mother is Mayra Pardillo Gomez and father is Raul Garcia Alvarez, Pyongyang correspondent of the PRENSA LATINA News Agency of Cuba.

Mayra who had been childless for eight years after marriage gave birth to a lovely son while in Korea together with her husband.

Medical workers of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital had several consultations and devotedly treated the Cuban woman to cure her disease.

Informed that the couple was spending the last years in Korea, Comrade Kim Chong-il took benevolent steps to give sufficient medical treatment to Mayra before her departure.

Saying that thanks to his particular loving care, benefits of the superior health system of Korea and the modern maternity hospital, they could experience the joy of father and mother, the couple sent a letter of thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il, requesting him to name their baby.

On the 24th when Saebyol was leaving the hospital, a meeting for conveying the gift of Comrade Kim Chong-il took place there.

Premier Sends Congragulations to Yugoslavia

SK3011101990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council, sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Ante Markovic, president of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The congratulatory message said that it sends warm congratulations on the occasion of the 'Day of the Republic,' which is a national holiday of the Yugoslav people.

The congratulatory message stated that it believes that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will continue to develop and hoped that there will be greater results in the struggle by the Yugoslav people to achieve the nation's economic development.

Yugoslav Envoy Holds Reception

SK3011053690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—Yugoslav Ambassador to Korea Milan Seslija gave a cocktail party Thursday on the occasion of the day of the Republic, national day of the Yugoslav people.

Invited to the party were Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Yi In-kyu, vice-minister of foreign affairs, Kang Chong-mo, vice-minister of foreign trade, Yi Mansok, director of the General Bureau of Diplomatic Corps Affairs, Colonel General Chon Chae-son of the Korean People's Army, and diplomatic representatives of different countries in Korea.

Speeches were exchanged at the party which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

National Day of Romania Noted in Press

SK0112114190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today observes the national day of the Romanian people.

Noting that the Romanian parliament which was elected in May instituted December 1 as the national day of Romania and decided to celebrate it in the future, the author of a by-lined article says:

The cherished desire of the Romanian people to live in one unified state in harmony was realised with the formation of a unified state on December 1, 1918.

Romania is externally developing friendly relations with different countries on the basis of cooperation and understanding, trust and mutual respect and on the principle of international law.

The friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples of Korea and Romania were established long ago and have been developed.

The Romanian Government and people which had directly experienced the sufferings of national division support the Korean people in their struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country which has been divided by foreign forces.

The Korean people are convinced that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean and Romanian peoples will continue developing in the future.

KCNA Reviews 4 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK0412050490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that works of the great leader President Kim Il-song were studied and disseminated in India and Guinea.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON carry stories about the loving care, benevolence and trust shown by President Kim Il-song for Choe Chun-kuk, an anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter, and Choe Tok-sin, former vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that works of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il were deeply studied in Madagascar and Tanzania.

The paper conveys repercussions evoked by the reply letter sent by Comrade Kim Chong-il to members of the second party cell of the department No. 5 of the KCNA upon officials and working people.

Economic news from different domains of the national economy given in the press includes reports that the Taean heavy machine complex is accelerating the production of ordered equipment and rural villages are seething with preparations for next year's farming.

According to the press, the Guinean president called at the DPRK Embassy in Conakry, a DPRK military delegation is visiting Thailand, and the Korean cartoon films which had won prizes in the "Asian International Film Festival 90" held in New York are now showing in various cities of the United States.

Echoed in NODONG SINMUN are world public voices praising the advantages of the educational system in our country.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that many books related to the northern half of Korea were brought out in South Korea and abroad, a student disseminated songs of the North.

Carried in NODONG SINMUN are a statement issued to the press by So Man-sul, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, and a commentary denouncing the South Korean fascist clique's arrest of the South side's delegates who had participated in the Berlin tripartite working-level talks of the pan-national federation for reunification.

MINJU CHOSON in a commentary denounces the ever intensified suppression of people by the South Korean fascist clique.

NODONG SINMUN in an article declares that no one can dampen the desire of the Korean people for national reunification. The daily in an article condemning the United States for announcing its decision to go on with the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises terms them a very adventurous preliminary war and test nuclear war.

Papers give an account of the fourth contact between officials of the North and the South held at Panmunjom Monday to discuss the participation of the Pyongyang national musical troupe in the "Traditional Concert for Reunification Seeing 1990 Out".

Many organizations of Japan strongly demanded the early realisation of the joint declaration of the three parties of Korea and Japan, and the U.S. paper the militant carried an article disclosing atrocities committed by the U.S. troops against the Korean people during the past Korean war, says the press.

It reports that the book "Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping Argue Democratic Centralism of the Party" came out in China and a spokesman of the State Council of China in a press conference declared that China will maintain socialism.

Foreign news of NODONG SINMUN includes the report that a meeting of communist and workers parties in the Latin American and Caribbean region adopted a statement supporting Cuba and the Palestinian president underlined danger of a Gulf war.

Housing Completed for 51,700 Families

SK3011153690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—Housing construction is brisk in Korea as a nationwide movement.

This year the provincial local construction and building-materials general bureaus have completed houses for 51,700 families and 30,000 families moved to new houses.

The newly-built house for each family has several rooms and commodious kitchen, hallway, store, bathroom, etc.

The capital city of Pyongyang and other cities are taking on new looks and many modern villages and streets bearing a close resemblance to the town have made their appearance in farming and fishing communities and workers' settlements.

Korea aims at building residential houses for hundreds of thousands of families in cities and the countryside in a few years to come.

Daily on Red Flag of Three Revolutions

SK3011035790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0007 GMT 23 Nov 90

[NODONG SINMUN 23 November special article: "The Movement To Win the Red Flag of the Three Revolutions Is a Mighty Driving Force That Makes It Possible To Actively Accelerate the Socialist Cause"]

[Text] In giving great significance to developing the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions—a communist mass movement—our party has energetically led the work of deepening the movement.

What is particularly significant in this work is the letter "Let us more vigorously conduct the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions" which dear Comrade Kim Chong-il sent to the participants in the meeting of the pioneers of the movement to win the Red Flag of Three revolutions held on 23 November 1986.

In this historic work, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il comprehensively elucidated the nature of the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions, its significance and importance, its central tasks, and the principles and methods in vigorously conducting it.

The work is a programmatic one which comprehensively systematizes and consummates the idea, theory, and policy of a revolutionary mass movement. It is a precious guideline which should be firmly followed in dynamically conducting the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions.

Through the project of embodying the idea and policy in the work, the party members and workers have been able to actively join the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions with more zeal, and the party organizations have been able to vigorously push ahead with it methodically. As a result, the system of the party's guidance to this movement has been established more orderly; the social atmosphere has become even more high-spirited; and this movement has been firmly changed into the masses' own campaign.

Realities, in which the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—have been vigorously accelerated and the superiority of socialism has been fully displayed, firmly confirm the justness of the mass movement elucidated by the work.

Practical experience shows that when the idea and theory of the work are thoroughly embodied, the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions can be constantly deepened to powerfully accelerate the cause of imbuing the entire society with the chuche idea.

Powerfully pushing ahead with the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions is a basic demand for giving full play to the superiority of our own socialism and for actively accelerating the socialist cause under the slogan calling for imbuing the entire society with the chuche idea.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, has noted: The movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions is based on our party's revolutionary mass lines and the principle of the chuche idea that the masters of the revolution and construction are the general masses and that the progressive force lies in them. Also, the movement reflects our people's unanimous aspirations and demands for further accelerating the cause of imbuing the entire society with the chuche idea. In addition, it powerfully prompts the revolutionary struggle and construction work by organically combining the work of remodeling man's idea with a collective reform movement in economic and cultural construction and by thoroughly embodying the principles of the battle for speed and the ideological campaign.

Actively conducting a mass movement is a basic factor for successfully promoting the socialist cause. The success and future of the socialist cause, which is built with a goal in mind and carried out in reliance upon the creativity of the masses, depend on how a mass movement, which actively inspires the creativity of the masses, is carried out.

The movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions is a mighty mass movement which makes it possible to give full play to the superiority of our country's socialism. It has been formed under the banner of the chuche idea and actively accelerates the socialist cause.

The reason for this, above all, lies in the fact that this movement regards the embodiment of the chuche idea as its basic aim.

The fundamental superiority of our country's socialism consists of the fact that our society is a man-centered society where the chuche idea has been embodied. The chuche idea—a man-centered idea—demands that all social fields be remodeled in conformity with the intrinsic demands of human beings.

The reason why our country's socialism conforms to the independent, creative, and conscious nature of human beings—social beings—and finely embodies the demands of collectivism is that our socialism has been constructed with the chuche idea as a leading guideline.

The chuche idea should be more thoroughly embodied to give full play to the superiority of our country's socialism. The movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions is a mass movement with the fighting goal of imbuing the chuche idea entirely.

A characteristic of a mass movement is importantly defined by what is set as its fighting goal. The occurrence of a mass movement in a socialist society, which adopts collectivism as its life, is inevitable.

However, all mass movements do not set the same goal. Unlike other mass movements, the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions sets embodying the chuche idea as its fighting goal. It demands that men and all social fields be remodeled as demanded by the chuche idea. Herein lies a characteristic of the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions and a basis for being the highest form of a mass movement.

When the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions is actively pushed ahead, men and all social fields are more thoroughly remodeled as demanded by the chuche idea and the superiority of chuche-oriented socialism is fully displayed. This is clearly confirmed by the practical experience in vigorously conducting this movement.

Today our people are firmly armed with the chuche idea and live and struggle as demanded by it. All fields of society, including the economic and cultural fields, have been thoroughly remodeled as demanded by the chuche idea. This is importantly attributable to the fact that under the wise leadership of our party the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions has been vigorously accelerated.

Another reason why the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions makes it possible to give full play to the superiority of chuche-oriented socialism and to actively accelerate its cause lies in the fact that the movement enables the general masses to bring their independent and creative life into full bloom by thoroughly carrying out the three revolutions.

Our country's socialism is a superior socialism which fully guarantees the people an independent and creative political, material, and cultural life.

How political, material, and cultural life is guaranteed is important in determining how progressive and superior society is. How a political, economic, and cultural life is guaranteed to the people is decided by how society embodies the demands and aspirations of the general masses.

Our country's socialism is a superior social system which fully guarantees the people an independent and creative political, material, and cultural life.

Realities in which this political, material, and cultural life has been brought into blossom in our country show that the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—are basic means to provide the general masses with the most rewarding and happiest socialist life by accelerating socialist construction as demanded by the chuche idea.

The three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—should be constantly pushed ahead vigorously to bring an independent and creative political, material, and cultural life, which show the superiority of our country's socialism, into full bloom.

The three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—are not easily fulfilled. Like all other revolutionary struggles, the three revolutions are also a struggle between things new and old and are a serious social reform. Furthermore, the three revolutions, which advance and complete the socialist cause, are carried out amid a fierce struggle against the imperialists and other international reactionaries.

The flames of a mass movement, which vigorously stirs the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—should be fanned to smash the ideological and cultural infiltration and other maneuvers of the imperialists who are attempting to block the advance of the socialist cause and to actively push ahead with the three revolutions.

The movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions makes the performance of the three revolutions a central task and firmly turns it into the masses' own work, thus stimulating their thorough implementation.

When the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions is actively forwarded, the three revolutions will be vigorously accelerated no matter what the circumstances. Thus, an independent and creative political, material, and cultural life can be constantly brought into bloom.

The movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions has been developed into a mighty campaign, which gives full play to the superiority of our own socialism, by enabling a broad range in the popular working masses to actively display their self-awakened spirit and creativity as the masters of the revolution.

One of the major superiorities of our country's socialism lies in the fact that the self-awakened spirit and creativity of the general masses have been fully displayed. Actively arousing the self-awakened spirit and creativity of the masses is an essential demand for constructing a socialist society, where the general masses have become masters, and is an important barometer in deciding the superiority of a social system.

It is mainly because such a mass movement as the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions has been vigorously conducted that our people have given full play to their revolutionary zeal and creative activity.

A mass movement is, by origin, an important means to increase the self-awakened spirit of the masses. Turning the attainment of an assigned goal into the masses' own work is the most important in a mass movement.

The movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions demands that the self-awakened spirit and creativity of the masses be fully displayed.

The fighting tasks of this movement are very high and should be steadily discharged. These tasks demand that the general masses actively give play to self-reliance, fortitude, and creative wisdom. When the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions is dynamically conducted, the self-awakened spirit and creativity of the masses are fully displayed.

This movement makes it possible to give full play to the self-awakened spirit and creativity of the masses by causing the functionaries of the party committees, workers' organizations, and administrative and economic organs and three revolutions teams to pay close attention to the movement. It also allows all functionaries to pool their strength in successfully fulfilling the three revolutions.

Past experience confirms that when this movement is vigorously waged, the functionaries go deeper among the masses and devote all resourcefulness to working with them by mobilizing their high revolutionary zeal.

Our party's firm will is to give full play to the superiority of our country's socialism by accelerating the work of imbuing the entire society with the chuche idea through the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions.

It is our people's pride and honor to conduct such a mighty mass movement as the one to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions, which is a powerful driving force that dynamically advances the socialist cause.

By thoroughly embodying the idea, theory, and policy elucidated in the programmatic work "Let us more vigorously conduct the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions," all party members and workers should constantly deepen the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions, thus giving full play to the superiority of our own socialism and actively accelerating the socialist cause.

South Korea

President No Tae-u To Visit Moscow 13-16 Dec

SK0412010490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0042 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u will visit Moscow Dec. 13-16 for a summit with his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev, presidential spokesman Yi Su-chong announced Tuesday.

No, the first Korean head of state to visit the communist country, will discuss with Gorbachev ways of improving ties, encouraging bilateral cooperation, and bringing peace to the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia, Yi said.

The president will meet with various government leaders and people during his visit, Yi said.

Moscow, one of North Korea's staunchest allies, normalized ties with Seoul on Sept. 30 and the first Korea-Soviet summit was held on June 4 in San Francisco.

"President No's official visit to the Soviet Union will be a historical step in opening a new era, an end to the cold war that has kept the two countries apart for so long," the presidential spokesman said.

"The visit, although short, will provide a dramatic opportunity for the two countries to improve ties and stabilize peace on the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia," Yi said. Government officials said a number of agreements are likely to be signed during No's visit, on trade, investment protection, avoidance of double taxation, technology cooperation and aviation.

Details of the agreements may have to wait until a Soviet delegation comes to Seoul. A South Korean delegation went to Moscow in September, when a rough outline of possible cooperation projects was drawn up.

No will be accompanied by 16 government officials, including Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, Trade and Industry Minister Pak Pil-su, Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon, Presidential Secretary-General No Chae-pong and Chief Secretary for Economic Affairs Kim Chong-in.

Professors Urge 'Bolder' N-S Exchanges

SK0412032390 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] The Seoul government needs to have a bolder and more active stance in promoting exchanges of professors and students between South and North Korea and should refrain from excessive intervention in the exchanges, a group of university professors suggested in a seminar yesterday.

Profs. Chong Chong-uk of Seoul National University and To Hong-yul of Chungpuk University also urged the government not to be stingy with inter-Korea academic exchanges of students and professors even though North Korea shows few signs of opening its doors now.

At a seminar on Inter-Korea Exchanges of Professors and Students held at Olympia Hotel, Prof. To said the government is requested to permit the application by Chondaehyop, the largest student activist group, to contact with North Korean students.

"A statesmanship is needed (on the part of the South) to try to induce even politically hostile groups to become favorable to us, if the South is to open itself and is also to seek to have the North open its doors, and if there is no problem in security environments," To said.

"In that sense, the government should approve Chondaehyop's request to meet representatives of North Korean students, and should not prevent contacts between the two sides," he said. To warned that "if the government seeks to intervene in the inter-Korea student contacts in a more-than-needed authoritarian manner out of distrust of the North, it will make South-North student exchanges all the more difficult." "In that case, the government may still remain politically the 'object of struggle' by students both in the South and the North," To predicted.

To also urged the government to make continued efforts with the Pyongyang government to make possible exchanges of students and universities between South and North Korea.

Prof. Chong of Seoul National University, predicts a slim prospect for the North to affirmatively agree to full exchanges between South and North Korean colleges and professors, and says that restoration of mutual trust by easing political and military confrontations is the key precondition to improve and activate inter-Korea academic exchanges.

Pointing that north Korea is reluctant to open and reform itself, Chong, however, advised the South to actively push exchanges with the North.

He said the government should not intervene in civilian academic exchanges between the two sides so long as the exchanges do not stray from the intended purpose.

Small Number of Inter-Korean Exchanges Noted

SK0412020490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Out of the 181 inter-Korean academic and cultural exchange programs that the government has approved since June 1989, only 18 percent or 32 have been realized, mostly in third countries, the Education Ministry said.

Since June last year, when the government set up guidelines for inter-Korean exchanges, there have been a total of 214 applications seeking academic, artistic and student exchanges with individuals and organizations in North Korea, according to the ministry.

Of the total 214 applications, 84.6 percent or 181 were approved by the government authorities. Eighteen applications were withdrawn and 15 are pending.

Among the 32 inter-Korean exchange programs, all but one were held in third countries—the United States, Japan and West European countries.

The exception was the music event held last September in Pyongyang, the capital of communist North Korea, with a score of southern musicians participating.

Former N. Military Officer's Testimony, Part 4

SK0412053790 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 4 Nov 90 p 6

[Part four in a series by Yu Song-chol, former Operations Bureau commander in the North Korean Army: "My Testimony"]

[Text]Kim Il-song was indeed active in the combat at Pochonbo

Three days after my arrival in Seoul I had the opportunity to watch Kim Il-song during his talks with [ROK] Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun on 18 October. Seeing Kim Il-song again after 31 years awakened me to just how much time has passed by. Kim's appearance is improved, considering how heavy he is. Although he is five years older than I am, he looked comparatively healthier and his voice was a little more hoarse than it was before.

As I observed his healthy appearance, I felt sorry for my own appearance, having been struck by palsy three times right after returning to the Soviet Union and unable to move about freely.

In any case, as I mentioned in my first discussion, in his days with the 88th Brigade at Khabarovsk, Kim Il-song was incomparably thin and feeble compared to his current state.

That may very well be a result of the extremely poor environment he lived in when he was involved in the anti-Japanese partisan activities throughout Manchuria. Thinking back, in external appearances alone both Choe Yong-kon and Choe Hyon looked more like heroic generals than Kim ever did.

That is the reason that I remember that there was only one instance where Kim Il-song actually commanded a unit conducting reconnaissance activities. One winter when we donned skis and conducted field training, Kim Il-song kept falling out of ranks and eventually had to tie himself with a rope to the first company commander Choe Yong-chin in order to move.

It was for reasons like this that I never was really impressed by Kim Il-song.

Also, there was never an opportunity to evaluate Kim's true ability as a commander at the 88th Brigade, since Kim had no actual combat experience against the Japanese forces.

In the area of military tactics, the fourth battalion commander Kang Kon was more highly regarded than Kim Il-song.

One opportunity to judge Kim Il-song's true character was from talk of Kim's activities in the battle of Pochonbo, which I had heard about from other partisans.

On 4 June 1937, Kim Il-song led a group of some 200 partisans, including Choe Hyon, across the border in an assault on the border village of Pochonbo, killing several Japanese police and retreating after obtaining rations and funds from landlords there.

This single battle has been blown up tens of hundreds of times in North Korea, being used as propaganda of Kim Il-song's exceedingly magnificent experience in the anti-Japanese struggle.

It is said that at the time, Kim did not flee to the mountains but instead, wearing a Japanese Army uniform and singing Japanese military songs, was able to safely flee by walking boldly down the open road.

North Korean history texts boast that at that time, Kim Il-song gathered the local citizens and gave a patriotic speech. During the Korean war, in a casual conversation about the Pochonbo battle with Choe Hyon, Choe stated, "Gee! Here he was busy running away. What type of mass speech could he give?" Although the idolization and distortion of history regarding Kim Il-song had already begun when I was in North Korea, it was nowhere near as blatant as it is now.

Five years ago in Tashkent I paid two rubles for the North Korean book entitled "Ryoksa," assuming it to be a history of Korea.

However, the entire book was solely dedicated to Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese movement, so I closed the book in disgust after only reading the first part. It was so distorted and exaggerated that I could no longer stomach reading it.

I took the book back to the bookstore as scrap, and exchanged it for a Soviet novel.

This book depicted Kim Il-song as the greatest hero in the independence struggle, as well as a boundlessly benevolent leader.

However, I never once saw Kim Il-song's benevolence when I was at the 88th Brigade. Although he was obedient and ardent towards brigade commander Zhou Baozhong and the Soviet officers, to his subordinates he was stern and cold.

In particular, Kim had an intolerant side to him that caused him to remember anyone with whom he had a negative experience and to eventually and inevitably seek revenge.

The majority of those people who would later be purged by Kim Il-song would get angry because of long-past disagreements with Kim which they simply could not forget.

I myself am an example of this. One day during our days with the 88th Brigade, I had just finished eating lunch and was enjoying a nap in accordance with the unit's regulations. Kim Il-song, then a battalion commander, dispatched one of his liaison officers to wake me up with instructions to proceed to the mess section to get some salmon for Kim to eat. Although our unit's rules were strict, we respected our enlisted soldiers and even officers did not send subordinates on private errands. Accordingly, I refused to comply with his request.

On another occasion, when I was on duty in the brigade headquarters, company commander Choe Yong-chin ordered, "Yu ga-i! [Koreans who had come from the Soviet Union affixed the North Korean word "ga-i," meaning "surname" at the end of one's surname. Even the famous Ho ga-i means Mr. Ho) Go inform Captain Kim Il-song that the location for tomorrow morning's meeting has been changed." I responded, "Where has the location been changed to?" Choe impatiently replied, "There is no need to know that."

As soon as I went to Kim Il-song and informed him of the change of location, Kim asked where the location was changed to. Even though I explained what had happened, Kim asked in anger "What kind of way is that to run an errand?"

Understandably dejected, I retorted "What am I supposed to do if the company commander doesn't tell me? What have I done wrong?" as I stomped out of the room.

Although I immediately forgot these two trivial incidents, I later found out that Kim Il-song kept thinking about them over and over again.

As I explained earlier, Mun Il was forced to flee to the Soviet Union after being dismissed as Kim Il-song's adjutant. Right before returning home, Mun and I talked, and Mun told me confidentially that Kim Il-song still had bad feelings toward me because of those incidents.

Mun Il also told me about an incident where Kim Il-song asked the wife of Pak Kil-nam, then a platoon leader in the signal unit of the 88th Brigade (head of the Engineer Bureau during the Korean war) to do some sewing on his military uniforms. Mun said to be careful, since Kim still harbored resentment because of Pak's refusal to do the favor.

Mun's warning was confirmed when Pak and I were purged afterwards.

I can give examples like that forever.

When I arrived at the 88th Brigade, Kim Il-song was living in officers' housing along with his wife Kim Chong-suk, whom he had married after she had come across to the Soviet Union.

Kim Chong-suk had been a partisan with Kim. At the 88th Brigade, all she did was take care of Kim Il-song. She was a good cook and a very warm-hearted individual. At this time, their eldest son Chong-il (Soviet name—Yura) was toddling around at one-and-a- half years old in 1944 when their second son, Pyong-il (Soviet name—Sula) was born.

Visiting North Korea in May 1990, I could not hold back my laughter at the fact that a thatched house, allegedly the birthplace of Kim Chong-il, had been built on Mt. Paektu, and there is even a rock called Chongil Peak there.

Among my Soviet friends was Kim Chang-kuk, who worked in North Korea after liberation as an Soviet interpreter and passed away early this year. His wife, who is the paternal aunt of Kim Il- song's first cousin once removed, visited North Korea just before I did. During her visit, she asked Kim Il-song's first cousin once removed, "I know that Kim Chong-il was born in Bayachuk, what are they trying to say that he was born in some secret hideout in Mt Paektu?" The cousin replied, "Aunt, we know that too."

Even today, for the life of me I cannot understand what the meaning is behind the fabricated story of Kim Chong-il's birthplace.

Although I don't have many pleasant memories of Kim Il-song from our days in the 88th Brigade, it was a joyous period in my life, filled with pride in the fact that we were doing meaningful deeds for the liberation of our fatherland. As Koreans, regardless of where we came from or what our backgrounds were, we all shared such feelings of nationalism and friendship.

From the time we arose at 0600 until we went to bed at 2200, we had a busy day filled with training. Training was so arduous that at times we only had five minutes to rest.

Our training mainly consisted of target practice, marching, athletics, rules and regulations, and small unit training; we even received parachute training.

Most of our training was conducted at the small-unit level. When brigade-level combined training was held, the commander of the Soviet Far East Command came out and managed it directly.

Brigade Commander Zhao Baozhong was exceptionally talented in military tactics due to his extensive anti-Japanese partisan experience, and he was also well respected by the unit members for his benevolence. Commander Chu would gather the officers together and after presenting a hypothetical confrontation with the enemy, would ask each officer for their ideas on possible operations and evaluate each and every response.

Even during such demanding training, in the summer the soldiers would go out to the Amur River and fish for salmon like children enjoying themselves. These are precious memories I will never forget.

Yu's Testimony, Part 5

SK0412062990 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 6 Nov 90 p 10

[Part five in a series by Yu Song-chol, former Operations Bureau Commander in the North Korean Army: "My Testimony"]

[Text]**One Month After Liberation I Arrived in Wonsan With Kim Il-song**

My days in Khabarovsk with Kim Il-song at the 88th Brigade came to an end in ~~August 1945~~ with the surrender of the Japanese imperialists to the Allied forces. We obtained liberation of the fatherland by depending on the Soviet Union, without having even one all-out combat with the Japanese Army.

The Soviet Union, which had emerged victorious in its battle with Germany in May 1945, turned its attention to the Far East and, concurrent with its declaration of war on Japan, launched an attacked into both Manchuria and Korea.

The Soviet Far East forces overwhelmingly defeated the Japanese forces who by then had already been cut off from their combat support. By the beginning of August, the Soviets had landed at Chongjin and Wonsan and, as soon as the Japanese surrendered, the Soviets seized control of all of North Korea.

At the 88th Brigade, when we heard the news of the fighting going on to free the fatherland, we also wanted to quickly join the battle. Korea was liberated, however, before we had such an opportunity.

Immediately after the Japanese surrendered, the orders came down to disband our unit. We then disarmed and turned in all of our weapons to higher authorities.

This is exactly how my life with the 88th Brigade ended, as did Kim Il-song's. **No One Could Have Thought of Him as the Leader of the Fatherland**

North Korean history continues to attempt to conceal as much as possible concerning Kim Il-song's activities with the 88th Brigade which began in 1941. This is because there is no way to explain how the great creator of the chuche ideology feebly greeted liberation as a mere official of the Soviet Armed Forces.

That is why North Korean history skips over Kim Il-song's days in the Soviet Union and insists that Kim entered North Korea as commander of the "People's Revolutionary Forces of the Fatherland," conducting joint operations with the Soviets.

In fact, it wasn't until one month after the Japanese surrender that Kim Il-song and I returned to North Korea in the middle of September 1945 in accordance with orders from the Soviet Army.

Following the disbandment of the 88th Brigade, the Chinese within the 88th Brigade returned to China under the leadership of Zhao Baozhong. The remaining 60 or so Koreans returned to North Korea.

The individual in charge of commanding the Koreans in the unit was Major Saichet [spelling as published] of the reconnaissance headquarters of the Soviet Far East Forces Command. In reality, however, Kim Il-song led us from the very beginning.

At the time, I was not quite certain how the Soviets intended to use us in North Korea, but I believe that they had no definite plan. Even at this time, no one among us could have thought that Kim Il-song would become the new leader of North Korea.

When we departed Khabarovsk, all the officers were assigned temporary areas of responsibility we would have upon our return to Korea. Kim Il-song's responsibility was to be the police superintendent (military police commander) of Pyongyang. It appears that the reason for assigning these responsibilities was to allow for the disbursement of salaries to the officers. Even though the plan was not followed through as originally hoped, it was an opportunity to get a glimpse of Soviet intentions.

In any case, with deep emotion and anticipation we departed for our newly liberated fatherland.

Our first plan called for us to move via the Mukden River and Manchuria, crossing the Amnok River and into Sinuiju.

Attempts To Conceal Kim's Humble Return to Korea

As we reached the Mukden River, I remember that at a small village in the vicinity some Koreans saw us in our Soviet Army uniforms and warmly welcomed us. In spite of their difficult situation, these people treated us like kings for three days.

After three days of hospitality, we began to prepare for our trip to the Amnok River. However, from what we heard the steel bridge crossing the Amnok had been blown up. Having no alternatives, we had to abandon the idea of entering Korea via land. We then moved again to Vladivostok via Usrikos [spelling as published] in order to board a boat to return to Korea.

Literally steps away from our homeland and having to turn around and head for Manchuria again, our feelings were as though our hopes for liberation had been frustrated.

After arriving in Vladivostok, our procession departed on the Soviet naval vessel Bugachov. On the afternoon of 19 September, we set foot on our beloved homeland at Wonson.

The reason I distinctly remember this date is because the following day was Chusok [Harvest Moon Festival] according to the lunar calendar.

Incidentally, North Korean history continues to be distorted for propaganda purposes by stating that Kim Il-song had crossed the Amnok River and was conducting partisan activities upon his return to Korea.

Once in Wonsan Harbor, we chose the second floor of a noodle restaurant to stay in and heartily ate noodles for our first meal in our fatherland.

After eating, Kim Il-song, wearing his Soviet captain's rank insignia, gave us three instructions. The first instruction was that even though tomorrow as Chusok, we were not to go out and indulge in large quantities of alcohol but instead pass the day quietly. The second instruction was that in case anyone asked us, we were to respond that we were the advance party and that Kim Il-song planned on returning at a later time. Finally, Kim instructed us to insist that we knew absolutely nothing about Kim Il-song such as his age, place of birth, or personal history.

Even now, I still cannot understand why Kim Il-song gave us such instructions.

Was it that Kim, who by nature was overly ambitious, had already planned for his personal idolization, knowing that he would become the leader of North Korea?

That was probably not the case. My conjecture is that at the time there were many rumors floating around in North Korea about Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese struggles in Manchuria, and Kim, conscious of this, simply wanted to hide the truth of his shabby, humble return to Korea.

Kim Almost Dies in a Train Collision

Recently while residing in the Soviet Union I have heard many scholars in South Korea who have insisted that Kim Il-song is either an impostor, or even that there were several independence fighters who used the name Kim Il-song. During my recent visit to South Korea I was able to confirm that these theories existed.

What I can contribute to this academic argument is that the current leader of North Korea is the Kim Il-song who conducted partisan operations as the central commander [chungkan chihwigwan) in the North East Anti-Japanese United Army during the 1930s in Manchuria and was the same person who served with me in the 88th Brigade at Khabarovsk.

Therefore, although I will explain this more in depth later on, at the time of liberation, there was a tendency to view Kim Il-song as more of a hero than he actually was as rumors about his return circulated in North Korea. An especially important rumor was that Kim Il-song was regarded as an extremely aged veteran general.

It appears as though Kim Il-song gave us these orders not to talk about himself since he was already aware of such public opinion.

As soon as these instructions came down, the impetuous Choe Yong- chin walked outside and mumbled to himself in Chinese "He really is talking nonsense."

In any case, we stayed in Wonson for three days until the day after Chusok. On Chusok, we wandered around the city, watching a traditional Korean wrestling match, eating some Chusok foods, and relaxing and enjoying ourselves for the first time in quite awhile.

By this time, Soviet forces had completely seized control of all of North Korea and were establishing a military government with General Khristiakov [spelling as published], commander of the 25th Division of the Soviet Far East Forces Command, as the military government commander.

Gen Khristiakov, who had become widely known for his participation in the German-Soviet war, had planned to come by train from Pyongyang to Wonsan to meet Kim Il-song. This was clearly proof that the Soviets had a deep interest in Kim Il-song.

However, when Gen Khristiakov failed to arrive on 21 September, the scheduled date, we got on a train and headed for Pyongyang at about 1300.

In the process, there is a hidden anecdote of how our party and Gen Khristiakov both narrowly averted death.

Our train departed Wonsan Station and began to wind its way around a corner of a mountain. At that very moment, a train headed our way on the same tracks collided with us head on. On that train was none other than Gen Khristiakov himself.

However, since it was a turn on a mountain, both trains had reduced their speed. Since both conductors immediately applied their emergency brakes, there was no loss of life.

Receiving New Missions, We Parted

A furious aide of Gen Khristiakov asked who was at fault and then proceeded to shoot the conductor of our train to death on the spot. I still to this day remember the sight of our conductor on his knees pleading for his life, saying he was not at fault.

Kim Il-song did not block such punishment of our conductor.

Although the situation was similar in South Korea, the words and actions of the Soviet Forces in North Korea were the law. In the early stages of the Soviet Military Government, there were numerous problems resulting from the misconduct of Soviet troops.

As a result of the train accident, our party arrived in Pyongyang the next day on 22 September.

In Pyongyang, we decided to stop at the Pyongannam-to Guard Headquarters, now under the direction of the Soviet Forces. Only days ago, this had been the notorious Japanese Constabulary Headquarters.

A few days later, each of us received new orders, scattering in our own separate directions. From this point on, our fates changed completely.

Kim Yong-sam, Ishida Agree on Lawmakers' Forum

OW0412092890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0759 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 KYODO—Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party, and Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Japan's second largest opposition party, Komeito, agreed Tuesday to work toward creating a six-nation parliamentarians' forum for peace in Northeast Asia, officials said.

The forum would comprise lawmakers from South and North Korea, Japan, China, the Soviet Union, and the United States, Komeito officials said. Ishida told Kim such an organization is needed amid the rapidly changing international situation. Kim, who made a similar proposal himself in 1988, said he believes the six-nation group would be a good forum for discussion of Northeast Asian affairs.

Kim, saying China and North Korea did not reply to his 1988 proposal, urged Ishida, whose party has friendly ties with China, to press Beijing to join the forum, Komeito officials said. Ishida promised to do so.

Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, with whom Ishida met separately, expressed support for moves toward rapprochement between Japan and North Korea, the officials said.

Kim, leader of the Party for Peace and Democracy, was quoted as saying Japan and the U.S. should promote ties with North Korea, balancing Seoul's normalization of relations with the Soviet Union. He expressed concern about Japan's role in international peacekeeping activities, saying there are signs of Japan reemerging as a major military power.

In a separate meeting, South Korean National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu expressed concern over the rapidly improving ties between Japan and North Korea, the officials said.

Pak was particularly concerned by a call for Japan to pay compensation to North Korea for its "postwar suffering" as well as for Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula in a joint declaration issued by Japanese and North Korean political parties September 28.

The declaration was issued by North Korea's governing Korean Workers Party and members of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and no. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party during a visit by the Japanese parliamentarians to Pyongyang. It also called for the early establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Japan provided 500 million dollars in economic aid by way of compensation for the colonial period when it normalized relations with South Korea in 1965, but there was no provision for "postwar suffering." Ishida told Pak that the two Japanese parties went too far in incorporating the call for postwar compensation in the joint statement.

Pak was quoted as telling Ishida that Japan must establish truly friendly relations with the South before doing so with the North. Japan, which ruled the Korean peninusula as a colony from 1910 to 1945, maintains no diplomatic ties with North Korea.

Causes of Trade 'Friction' With U.S. Analyzed

SK0412021290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 3 Dec 90 p 9

[By No Pong-mi]

[Text] The cold war is over, but in its place the trade war being waged by the more industrialized nations against the less industrialized nations over market opening is growing in intensity and ferocity.

Friction between South Korea and the United States over Korea's nationwide austerity drive is a crystal clear example, it shows a superpower driven by economic self-interest but with little concern for a smaller country's cultural, social and economic situations. It also reflects the importance of understanding cultural differences in international relations.

The row appears to be a perfect model of how even the best-intentioned move by one side can be seen as malicious by another side if there is little understanding of the cultural background of the move, which in this case was a campaign by civic and social organizations against excess consumption. The Americans have branded the nationwide movement against luxury purchases a direct attack on imports and accuse the Korean government of being behind the campaign.

They have demanded that the government halt the campaign, allow American electronic and automobile companies to set up direct sales outlets in Korea, extend TV broadcasts to the afternoon to make room for advertising of American goods, and many more things.

There is a huge gap between the way the two countries see the campaign. The Americans see the anti-conspicuous consumption drive in the simple framework of "fair trade" as defined by their own rules of the game; while in the Korean mind, going on an indiscreet buying spree of luxuries at a time when not a few others find it difficult to make ends meet is a sin.

So it is more than natural for civic and social organizations to mount energetic campaigns designed to battle the spread of conspicuous consumption and reckless commercialism, which are seen as rapidly unraveling the very fiber of society and leading to moral decay.

The comprehension gulf stems from the very different cultural, social and economic backgrounds of the countries, analysts say.

The United States is the original consumption-oriented western capitalist society, where consumption is considered a virtue. There is so much wealth, more than enough to cover industrial production and consumption capital, that American consumers can buy home appliances, cars, furniture and even houses on credit; they lead a credit life in an institutionally stabilized, highly developed consumer society. From their standpoint, the austerity drive in Korea might be seen as an unnatural restriction on the right of an individual to pursue material happiness and a barrier to imports and free trade.

But they would be wrong, because the situation facing Korea is quite different. Korea is a Confucian society, where frugality and decency have long been regarded as central elements of a virtuous lifestyle. There is a dearth of wealth and Korea does not have enough money to cover industrial production, let alone consumption. Unlike people in the United States, who can buy a house on credit, people in Korea buy a house only when they have saved enough to pay cash for it, meeting the full price of the house or going without.

In short, Korea is still at the stage where saving is the basis of industrial production and consumption. That's why the saving rate of Korean people is higher than other industrialized countries. If they were to go on a buying spree, spending all they earn as the barons of industry in America and the other industrialized countries want them to do, it would leave a shortage of capital for economic development and threaten every household's future.

Frugality, more predominantly, has long been a philosophical value inherent among the Korean people. Rich though some people may have been in the past, indulging in luxurious clothing and food was considered a vice. So deeply rooted in the subconscious is this feeling, that even the onslaught of modernism has been unable to eradicate it.

In ancient times, when a family was lucky enough to have meat for dinner they tried to keep the smell of grilling from spreading over the neighborhood by shutting the kitchen door. They felt guilty to be eating meat while neighbors could not afford it.

Umpteen examples of this kind of behavior can be found. In the past, Korean stores displayed cheap things outside and kept the expensive ones inside, only bringing them out when customers asked to see them. No matter how rich a customer was, nor how good the shopowner was, buying expensive things or selling luxurious foreign items was regarded as immoral and contemptible.

When a Western woman spends a fortune on a painting, she invites all her friends over for a self-congratulatory party and puts the painting prominently on display. If she were Koran, she would keep the purchase secret; or at least treat the outrageous price as a shameful secret. This is why art auctions have proved impossible to arrange in Korea.

Rapid modernization and economic development have brought Koreans the higher standard of living of which they dreamed, yet they have found themselves paying a high price in the loss of their precious traditional values. Some of Korea's new rich are indiscreetly extravagant in their pattern of consumption.

Ultimately, however, the key issue seems to be distribution. The fruits of the economic miracle are far from evenly distributed. The ever-deepening gap between the haves and have-nots consequently deepens social disharmony and the reckless extravagance of the new rich is eliciting outright hostility from those who have been alienated materially.

In this content, the austerity drive can be understood as a spontaneous campaign by traditional Koreans who are still the overwhelming majority, to expel extravagance and restore social harmony.

In January-September, South Korea's imports increased 10.4 percent overall and imports of durable consumer goods soared 34 percent. This is alone ought to be enough to disprove the dyslogistic American claim that the austerity drive is a movement by the Korean government to restrict imports.

PRC Designate for Seoul Trade Office Viewed

SK0312044890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0349 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Hong Kong, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—Xu Dayou, vice chairman of the China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC), has recently been named to be the first head of the representative office that is to be set up soon in Seoul, the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST reported Monday.

Quoting reliable Chinese sources, the English-language Hong Kong daily said Xu, who is not a comparatively well-known international trade expert but having served as CCOIC's vice chairman since 1986, will head CCOIC's representative office in Seoul.

Although Xu also is a vice minister-level official, the designation of Xu by the Chinese authorities is not well balanced, as compared with South Korean Government's appointment of veteran diplomat No Chae-won as the first head of Kotra (Korea Trade Promotion Corporation) representation in Beijing.

The daily quoted Western diplomats as saying the failure to choose a higher profile official was mainly because China fears strong complaints from North Korea.

Beijing is trying to give North Korea the impression that the representative office in Seoul is just a semi-official trade office, it said.

China and South Korea regard 'trade representative offices' as 'de facto embassy', and as a result, both sides will send more diplomats and government officials to their own trade offices rather than trade-related personnel, the paper said.

Kotra and CCOIC, also dubbed as the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), agreed to set up trade offices in Seoul and Beijing Oct 20.

Trade Guidelines With 'Communist' States Revised

SK0312132690 Seoul YONHAP in English 1233 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean private businesses will not have to seek official approvals for their business deals involving six East European countries and Mongolia, which have set up diplomatic ties with Seoul, starting from Dec. 14.

The existing guidelines for exchanges and cooperations with Communist nations will be revised so as to have Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Germany (East), Poland and Mongolia released from the list of socialist-bloc countries to which they will be applied to.

However, business deals with the Soviet Union, even though it has already normalized its relations with South Korea, and six other socialist-bloc countries which are yet to establish diplomatic ties with Seoul—China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Albania and Cuba—will remain in the list.

As for the seven listed nations, regulations will be strengthened. The Korean businesses are required to report to the authorities concerned for seeking business deals involving exports or imports of merchandise, plant facilities and investment worth one million dollars or more each.

Currently, the businesses have had to make reports when exporting or importing plant facilities worth two million dollars or more.

Dispatch of trade delegations and invitation of trade-related people from the countries will be taken under the control of the basic guidelines. The Korean civilian economic organizations and businesses will be allowed to seek business ties with their counterparts in those countries on condition that those deals are duely reported, the new guidelines said.

South To Attend G-77 Meeting in Pyongyang

SK3011063690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0540 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea will send a delegation to the 7th ministerial conference of the Group of 77 [G-77] in Pyongyang next May, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

Seoul does not oppose Pyongyang's hosting the G-77 ministerial conference and will attend, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"The conference will certainly be held in Pyongyang as no other country wants to host it but Pyongyang, which expressed its intention of holding the conference in the Asian regional meeting of the G-77 in Geneva on Nov. 9," he said.

He said the delegation would comprise several government officials and be headed by a cabinet minister-level official, but there was little possibility of Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung going.

The possibility of the South Korean foreign minister visiting Pyongyang and meeting with his North Korean counterpart for the first time since separate governments were established in the second half of the 1940s cannot be ruled out, however, if there is a sudden improvement in South-North Korean relations as a result of the ongoing prime ministerial meetings.

The conference is to discuss ways of helping less-developed countries prepare for the eighth UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) meeting in Uruguay in September 1991.

The G-77 was inaugurated in 1967 and has 127 countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America as its members. It convenes a ministerial conference every four years and South Korea sent an eight-member delegation headed by Ambassador-at-Large Ku Chung-hoe to the 6th G-77 ministerial conference in Havana in April 1987.

Daily Says Premier Kang Yong-hun To Resign

SK0412115290 Seoul YONHAP in English 1127 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun is expected to tender his resignation right after President No Tae-u returns from his scheduled visit to the Soviet Union, a leading vernacular daily has reported.

The CHOSON ILBO said in its Wednesday editions that Kang has made up his mind to resign to give a free hand in preparing himself with a new system in which he can handle state affairs more resolutely during the latter half of his tenure of office.

The paper quoted an official of the prime minister's office as saying, "Kang is believed to hand in his resignation soon after No returns from Moscow." Kang's resignation will not come before that in view of the third inter-Korean prime ministers talks slated for Dec. 11-14 in Seoul, the official said.

No is reportedly to visit the Soviet Union on Dec. 13-17.

No official comment was available on the report. Meanwhile, reports have said No will reshuffle his cabinet early next year at the latest.

Statistics on Export Performance Reported

SK0412014890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES (supplement) in English 4 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Exports are continuing to slow down, thus slowing down the development of the nation's economy. In particular, the government is deeply perplexed by stagnating exports despite its new export drive policy launched this year.

The government was confident that the export drive policy would boost exports which have been seriously plunging since last year. The stabilization of labor-management relations and the won's depreciation against the U.S. dollar and other major foreign currencies this year buoyed up the government. But the results of the export drive policy and other favorable conditions have been disappointing.

According to statistics from the Trade-Industry Ministry, exports during the first 10 months of the year recorded $51.9 billion on a customs clearance basis, up only 2.9 percent from the year before. On the other hand, imports rose as much as 10.8 percent to $55.8 billion. The trade deficit during the period recorded $3.9 billion, far surpassing the government's goal of $3 billion in the year.

The trade deficit will be certainly expanded during the remainder of the year due to poor arrivals of export letters of credit (L/Cs). Arrivals of L/Cs, which serve as a yardstick to estimate export trends two or three months in advance, rose only 3 percent in the first 10 months of the year compared with the year before.

Many business experts said that the trade deficit in the year would reach some $6 billion, the worst in the nation's trade history. The deficit will wipe out trade surpluses recorded since 1986. In the first 10 months of the year, exports of most products except for general machinery, footwear and ships were sluggish. Those of textiles, automobiles, containers and toys back-pedalled from the year before. Heavy industrial and chemical products rose 3.5 percent in their exports, while shipments of light industrial good increased only 1.7 percent. Specifically, electrics and electronics amounted to $14,388 million (up 2.5 percent over a year ago), general machinery $1,394 million (up 25.1 percent), ships $1,799 million (up 57.7 percent), footwear $3,515 million (up 22.6 percent) and plastics $1,061 million (up 1 percent). Steel and metals decreased 46.7 percent to $3,977 million, automobiles 15.5 percent to $1,545 million and textiles 3 percent to $12,105 million.

In the meantime, imports of raw materials rose 9.2 percent to $29,703 million, accounting for 53.2 percent of the aggregate imports during the period. Those of capital goods increased 14.4 percent to $20,669 million (37 percent of the total imports) and those of consumption goods 7.3 percent to $5,474 million (9.8 percent). By item, agricultural and fisheries products amounted to $7,316 million (up 3.5 percent), crude oil $4,512 million (up 15.2 percent), chemicals $11,020 million (70 15.7 percent), steel and metals $5,486 million (up 0.6 percent), general machinery $7,722 containers 1.4 percent to $832 million and toys 17.2 percent to $613 million.

By Country, exports to the 12-member European Community rose 14.8 percent to $6,923 million, propelled by electronics and footwear. Those to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations increased 28.7 percent to $3,995 million, those to the Latin America 20.9 percent to $1,687 million and those to Africa 0.6 percent to $750 million. But exports to the United States decreased 5.2 percent to $15,936 million, Japan 9.7 percent to $10,008 million, the Middle East 6.5 percent to $1,556 million and Oceania 9 percent to $1,002 million.

Of the nation's exports during the period, the United States took the largest share of 30.7 million (up 20.4 percent), followed by Japan (19.3 percent), the EC (13.3 percent), ASEAN (7.7 percent), Latin America (3.2 percent), the middle East (3 percent), Oceania (1.9 percent) and Africa (1.4 percent).

Imports from the United States rose 6.8 percent to $13,899 million, those from Japan 3.6 percent to $14,860 million and those from the EC 28.9 percent to $6,884 million. The trade account with the United States during the period recorded a $2,037 million surplus, a drop of $1,759 million from the year before.

That with Japan registered a $4,852 million, up $1,596 over a year ago, while that with the EC recorded a $39 million surplus, down $652 million.

The declining surplus in trade with the United States is attributed to combined efforts by the government and business circles to balance bilateral trade. The efforts are also aimed at diffusing trade friction with the United States. But the growing trade deficit with Japan is unnerving the government and business circles.

The government has been encouraging business circles to diversify their import sources away from Japan in order to rectify the chronic trade imbalance with Tokyo. However, business concerns are still heavily reliant on Japan in imports of machinery for the automation of their production facilities.

Meanwhile, the increase in the nation's exports is lower than that for Japan and the Republic of China and the rise in imports is higher than that for Japan and the Republic of China.

During the first nine months of the year, Japan exported $206,148 million worth of products, down 0.4 percent from the year before. It imported $164,632 million worth of goods, up 5.9 percent. Its trade account in the period recorded a $41,516 million surplus, down $22,812 million over a year ago.

Exports by the Republic of China decreased 0.2 percent to $49,597 million and its imports rose 2.4 percent to $40,183 million. Its trade surplus during the period decreased $4,523 million to $9.414 million.

It is generally expected that the nation's exports would further plunge in the days to come as the United Sates, the EC, Japan and other advanced countries are stepping up their protectionism.

In particular, Japanese products manufactured in those countries are weakening international price competitiveness of Korean-made products. More and more Japanese are investing in those nations, taking advantage of abundant manpower and cheap labor costs there, in order to enhance their exports.

To cope with such problems, business concerns are requited to increase their investment in research and development projects in a bid to manufacture high value-added products.

Rising Oil Prices Increase Trade Deficit

SK0312030590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—High oil prices widened South Korea's trade deficit to 5.55 billion U.S. dollars on a customs clearance basis last month, the Trade and Industry Ministry reported Monday.

Tentative figures put the November deficit at 1.65 billion dollars on exports of 5.98 billion dollars, up 5.7 percent from the same month last year, and imports of 7.63 billion dollars, up 39.2 percent.

The target deficit is 5 billion dollars for the year, but exports rose 3.1 percent to 57.9 billion dollars in the 11-month period while imports jumped 13.6 percent to 63.5 billion dollars.

Arrivals of letters of credit (L/C) increased 11.7 percent, brightening export prospects for the next two or three months. L/C arrivals jumped 6.2 percent in September and 4.7 percent in October.

The report attributed the import surge to the rising cost of crude oil, metal and textile machinery imports as well as iron and bituminous coal imports to operate the third stage of the steel mill planned by the Pohang Iron and Steel Co.

General machinery imports soared 20.4 percent from the same month last year, while crude costs increased 15.2 percent and capital goods imports rose 14.4 percent.

Domestic demand fueled the bill for machinery.

The ministry said electric and electronic exports showed signs of recovery and footwear exports sustained robust growth.

Heavy chemical exports rose 4.4 percent from the same month last year while light industry product exports edged up 1.9 percent, it said.

'White Paper' on Returning Expatriates, Aid

SK0112073490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0414 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—South Koreans are returning in increasing numbers as the nation advances on the political, social and economic fronts, the Foreign Ministry said in a white paper issued on Saturday.

Over the last 10 years, 26,200 emigrants have returned. It said 25.4 percent of the people who emigrated in 1989 had returned, 15 percent of those who left in 1988 and 9.5 percent of those who went in 1987.

It said 4,676 Koreans returned from the United States in 1989, 882 from Argentina, 136 from Canada and 110 from Australia.

The inconvenience on living abroad and nostalgia persuaded aging Koreans to return, while education and business topped the factors among middle-aged Koreans, it said.

The white paper also said Korea's grants to developing nations totaled 79.835 million U.S. dollars between 1977 and 1989. Africa got 33.459 million dollars, Latin America 23.714 million dollars and the Middle East 6.211 million dollars.

Nuclear Dumps Planned for Uninhabited Islands

SK0112095890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 30 Nov 90 p 1

[Excerpt] The government plans to build nuclear waste treatment facilities on uninhabited islands, one official said yesterday.

In response to lawmakers' questions, Chon Pyong-il, director of the Ministry of Science and Technology's office of nuclear power, said the ministry has decided to build nuclear waste dumps on uninhabited islands to avoid protests.

The government will select sites for nuclear waste dumps after consultations with domestic and foreign nuclear specialists, he said.

He said the government has scrapped plans to build a "science research complex" on Anmyon Island.

Rep. Yi Hai-chan of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy demanded that the government make public where nuclear waste dumps will be built.

During a parliamentary inspection of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Rep. Yi called for tight safety measures.

He alleged that the government had deceived the people in connection with the plan to build a nuclear waste dump on Anmyon Island on the west coast.

Reports of government plans to construct a nuclear waste dump there triggered Anmyon islanders' violent protests early this month. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Opposition Opposes U.S. Troops in Singapore

BK0112035790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Dec 90 p A6

[By Sonny Inbaraj]

[Text] The presence of American troops in Singapore can destabilize Islam and the political well-being of ASEAN, the opposition Malaysian Muslim fundamentalist party Parti Islam Malaysia (PAS) said yesterday.

The latest issue of the party's Malay newspaper Harakah said such a development would benefit the Americans at the expense of ASEAN members. "PAS opposes the stationing of American troops in this region aimed at checking the revival of Islam," said PAS Vice-President Haji Hassan Shukri.

Haji Hassan also accused the United States of planning to dominate the world by controlling strategic areas such as Southeast Asia. "The Americans are exploiting the Gulf crisis to divide Muslim nations and their peoples and thwart the progress of Islam," he said.

The PAS statement came in the wake of the recent signing of an agreement between the United States and Singapore in Tokyo last month, allowing US forces greater access to military facilities in Singapore.

Rebutting criticisms from the region, Singapore assured ASEAN members that the agreement with the US would not lead to the establishment of an American military base in the Republic.

The Malaysian government made it very clear that the military cooperation between Washington and Singapore should be just limited to the use of military facilities in the island by American warplanes and ships enroute to other destinations.

PAS formed the state government of the northeastern Malaysian state of Kelantan, when the party managed to garner 24 out of the 39 seats in the state assembly, after sweeping out the ruling National Front government. The party's ideology is modelled after the late Ayatollah Khomeni's Islamic revolution in Iran.

— In a related development, Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Tun Abdul Razak was quoted in the pro-government NEW STRAITS TIMES as saying that the country will buy four submarines worth more than M$1 million (Bt10 billion) from Britain. It was reported that two of the submarines will be new and the other two would be second-hand ones.

The submarines will be among the arms and military equipment Malaysia will buy from Britain under a M$4.5 million (Bt40.5 million) memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries.

Najib said Malaysia's defence strategy must be tailored to meet the needs of the changing environment around ASEAN. "As such, we cannot afford to be reactive. We must be proactive to face the possible challenges ahead of us. We must have a strong credible and deterrent force that must be respected by others."

The government, Najib said, should set aside a substantial amount from its annual budget to equip the armed forces with sophisticated weapons to tackle external threats. He said he disagreed with the views expressed by some economic planners, who had argued that it would be wasteful to spend large amounts of money on defence.

"The armed forces should be prepared for any eventuality, and should not allow the nation's security to be underminded by anybody."

Minister Najib on Purchase of British Submarines

BK2911115990 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Nov 90 p 18

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur—The government will buy four submarines from Britain worth more than M$1 billion (S$240 million); Defence Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said on Tuesday.

Two of the submarines will be new. The other two are second-hand submarines, he told reporters after presenting diplomas to 103 officers who had completed courses run by the Malaysian armed forces' staff college.

The government, he said, had "more or less identified the types of submarines it would like to acquire and is in the final stages of negotiation". The submarines will be among the armed and military equipment Malaysia will buy from Britain under a M$4.5 million memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries.

The submarines, Datuk Najib said, would be delivered in stages over the next ten years.

The Royal Malaysian Navy has been busy training its officers to handle submarines since 1987. Several officers were sent for training in France, Germany and Britain. [passage omitted]

Radio Warns Against EC-ASEAN Trade War

BK0412095490 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Bosco de Cruz commentary]

[Text] Recently the European parliament passed a resolution that would make (?hurting) to the feelings of developing countries, particularly ASEAN. That resolution which was based on a report by the International Tropical Timber Organization or ITTO is aimed at banning the import of tropical hardwood citing environmental issues and ecological imbalance as a reason for the move. It is obvious that there are bodies which call themselves environmental groups that are behind the decisions of the European parliament.

The campaign against ASEAN commodities is not new. It is another form of protectionism to restrict the imports of products of developing countries. Environmental issues are being used as a trade reference and as an escape to deny assistance for specific projects of developing countries which deserve support. The negative measures being undertaken by the western environmentalists will only discriminate the utilization of tropical timber products among consumers. These actions taken through administrative or legislative measures run counter to the principles of GATT and free trade substitutes and they undermine progress towards creating a more liberal and equitable trading system for commodities.

The Indonesia-Malaysia joint working committee on forestry which met in Kuala Lumpur last week resolved that ASEAN must take firm action against antitropical hardwood campaigners. It has recommended that the meeting of ASEAN economic ministers next year focus attention on retaliatory action against the EC move including the banning of imports of certain European products into ASEAN. This countermeasure can only be described as natural as ASEAN feels offended by the negative discrimination being practised against some of its products. The joint communique issued at the end of last week's meeting said it was unfair for western environmentalists to blame ASEAN countries, especially Indonesia and Malaysia, for causing global economic imbalance.

There should be a balanced approach to global environmental issues. Temperate forests also influence the environemnt. Tropical forests alone must not be picked for blame. It is true that forests in ASEAN are becoming smaller as a result of rapid development but it must be realized that ASEAN governments have specific policies to sustain forest resources. Trees are felled collectively to maintain ecological balance. In Sarawak, the east Malaysian state, tropical hardwood was the focus of attention of the European parliament. The government is reviewing the renewal period of timber licenses with the aim of lengthening the period so as to allow more systematic and controlled logging of timber. With the state timber felling policy of a 25-year cycle where only trees at least 40 years old are cut, the timber reserves in Sarawak will last a minimum of 20 years or more and not complete depletion in 11 years as stated in the ITTO report.

As the European parliament has passed the resolution on the import of tropical timber it is up to each member of the EC to impose the ban or quota. The EC countries were not well-advised to take note of the well-planned and farsighted reforestation policies adopted by ASEAN governments in their continuous effort to manage their forests on a sustainable yield basis. It will be beneficial to both sides to avoid a trade war arising from the present situation.

UMNO Youth Issue Resolution on Education

BK2911143090 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Delegates to the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth General Assembly today unanimously agreed to call on the government to be firm on banning political parties using Islam as the basis of their Constitution. In a resolution adopted at the meeting, the assembly also urged UMNO leaders to state clearly the ultimate aim of the party as far as Islam is concerned.

On education, the movement called for a uniformed curriculum for primary and secondary schools throughout the country in line with that set up by the Education Ministry. A resolution on education also called for government support and assistance for the growth and development of religious schools, especially [words indistinct].

[Words indistinct] resolution tabled at the UMNO Youth and Wanita [Women] General Assembly, including the one on constitutional monarchy, were passed without debate. The Wanita UMNO General Assembly debated two of the (?four) resolutions that were tabled, one on education and the other on the parliament.

The resolution on constitutional monarchy was tabled at the UMNO Youth General Assembly by its Executive Committee member, Datuk Tan Sri (Aziz Yuh). Tabling the resolution, he urged the UMNO leadership and the government to explain the goals and duties of the institution of constitutional monarchy to the people. He also called on the UMNO leadership and the government to take [word indistinct] action to ensure that the Federal Constitution was not violated.

Meanwhile, UMNO Youth Chief Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said he was satisfied with the newly elected Executive Committee, which comprised good leaders. [passage omitted]

Question Assembly Role of Rulers

BK2911145290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 29 (AFP)—Youths of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) Thursday named the ruler of northeastern Kelantan state as an example of palace involvement in politics.

The UMNO youth wing, holding its annual assembly here ahead of the parent party's meeting Friday, passed without debate a resolution seeking party leaders and the government to clarify the role of constitutional monarchs.

Analysts said that the debate was avoided to prevent delegates from running afoul of the Sedition Act which makes it a criminal offence to question the rights, powers, status, privilege, sovereignty or prerogatives of the rulers.

The resolution, which was adopted with a show of hands, also urged party leaders and the government to ensure that violations of the Constitution were not repeated.

UMNO officials have claimed that Kelantan's Sultan Ismail Petra had told his subjects not to vote for Dr. Mahathir's National Front coalition at general elections last month.

Sultan Ismail, one of Malaysia's nine hereditary Malay rulers, is the nephew of former Trade Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, whose opposition alliance took control of Kelantan at the polls.

But although the resolution appeared aimed at Sultan Ismail, UMNO officials said that several other rulers had attempted to influence the appointment of state chief ministers and other top officials after the elections.

The alleged reaction in UMNO, Malaysia's dominant political party:

Nazri Yeop, the chairman of UMNO Youth's international bureau, told nearly 400 delegates when proposing the resolution: "We feel the time has come to tell the rulers not to be involved in politics because we love them." He said the rulers need have no fear because the institution was entrenched. "We will make sure that their children and grandchildren will continue to rule."

Mr. Nazri said that Sultan Ismail had allegedly refused to allow his chief minister to lead the pledge of loyalty at his annual birthday celebrations. He claimed that the sultan called up government officials and religious leaders, telling them not to vote for Dr. Mahathir's National Front coalition at the polls and creating a difficult situation for the people.

Mr. Nazri said that despite the ruler's command, 145,000 voters in Kelantan voted for the National Front. "We do not want a situation like this to happen again where the ruler's wish is not obeyed."

"If rulers are involved in politics, we cannot touch them. We cannot bring them to court. If we touch them, we can be brought to court. Where is the justice?" He said.

The resolution, which will also be put to the UMNO meeting, is seen as no more than a message to the rulers but some analysts have read it as a tactic to divert blame for the loss of Kelantan.

Malaysia's hereditary rulers have managed to survive, unlike those in neighbouring India and Indonesia, who were brushed aside at independence, because Malays felt that the rulers were needed to protect them and to symbolise unity.

Conflicts between the rulers and the government have, however, arisen from time to time, the most serious being in 1983 when Dr. Mahathir tried to remove their powers to withold assent to bills.

UMNO Vice Presidents Elected in Polls 30 Nov

BK0112070590 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0515 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 1 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Two incumbents of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) vice presidents retained their posts in party polls here Friday night. They are Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim and former Defence Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The new vice president is Agriculture Minister Sanusi Junid.

Anwar polled the highest number of 1,067 votes and was followed by Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (953 votes) and Sanusi Junid (750 votes). The results were announced by UMNO Permanent Chairman Sulaiman Ninam Shah at about 11.30 PM at the Merdeka Hall of the Putra World Trade Centre.

The northeastern Terengganu State chief minister, Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, polled 735 votes and failed to retain the vice presidency.

Two other candidates who failed to be elected were chief ministers of the southern state of Johor Muhyiddin Yassin who received 582 votes and southwestern Melaka State Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik (452 votes). A total of 1,514 votes were cast and there was one spoilt vote.

In the 1987 party polls, Anwar received 850 votes, Abdullah 879 votes, and Wan Mokhtar was on top with 935 votes.

The prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, and his deputy Ghafar Baba have been returned unopposed to their posts as president and deputy president of UMNO which is the major component in the 11-party ruling National Front coalition. Dr. Mahathir and his National Front coalition were returned to another five-year term in the general election last month.

Interest is centred on the vice presidential race as political observers feel it may be a contest for succession because of rumours that Dr. Mahathir may step down in five years.

However, on Sunday, the prime minister was reported to have said that the party would be holding its triennial elections in three years and those who win this time may not win again in the next round. He also said that he will stay on as UMNO president and prime minister as he is still wanted by his party people.

The UMNO president traditionally becomes the chairman of the National Front who is also made the prime minister if the coalition wins the general election.

Mahathir Closes UMNO General Assembly 2 Dec

BK0312045590 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0407 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 3 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party, which is the major component in the ruling National Front coalition, ended its general assembly over the weekend but its impact and significance will remain for a long time to come.

Several resolutions were passed, including one on the sensitive issue of constitutional monarchy and others on religion, education and, the economy during the four-day gathering.

The open debate on the resolution on the rulers is not intended to change the monarchical system or foment revolution, Dr. Mahathir told the assembly. The position of the rulers is protected under the Sedition Act and debate on the matter was treated with extra caution.

The party president said the debate was merely intended to remind all affected parties of the indiscretions that had taken place and to highlight the possible dangers associated with them.

The motion appealed to the monarchs to uphold the federal and state Constitutions in order to guarantee the integrity, sovereignty and survival of the institution.

The resolution also appealed to King and the rulers to ensure all federal and state institutions under their powers are not misused for partisan political purposes. It also urged the rulers to be sensitive to the fact that in a parliamentary democracy, political leaders are given the mandate by the people through the general election.

The resolution was prompted by allegations that certain rulers had influenced the outcome of the general election held in October.

Under the Malaysian monarchical system, nine states in the federation have sultans as head of state while the remaining four namely, Penang, Malacca, Sabah, and Sarawak have governors as state heads. The sultans are the head of Islam and largely play a ceremonial role. The Yang Dipertuan Agung (the King) is elected among the nine rulers and stays in office for five years.

Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin, who is the party treasurer, told the gathering that the government's sound and prudent financial management enabled the country's foreign reserves to swell to Malaysian $26 billion (about U.S. $9.6 billion) compared with Malaysian $9 billion (about U.S. $3.3 billion). [sentence as received]

He said the government would continue to adopt strict and prudent strategies to ensure that the economy, which was enjoying an annual growth rate of nine percent, remains stable.

In party elections, Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Agriculture Minister Sanusi Junid, and former Defence Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were elected vice-presidents.

Paper Reports Appointment of New Navy Officers

BK0112132890 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Nov 90 p 9

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wednesday—Laksamana Muda [Rear Admiral] Datuk Yaacob Haji Daud has been appointed the new deputy Navy chief. A statement issued by the Public Relations Division of the Ministry of Defense said the appointment was effective from 26 November.

Datuk Yaacob was promoted to Laksamana Muda on 1 November. He replaces Laksamana Madya [Vice Admiral] Datuk Shariff Ishak who has been appointed chief of Navy.

Datuk Yaacob was assistant chief of staff (Operations and Training) at the Malaysian Armed Forces Headquarters in the Ministry of Defense. Born on 12 June 1942 in Jasin, Melaka, he was a student of the Royal Military College. Datuk Yaacob started his career as a naval cadet on 1 September 1961 and received his training at the Brittania Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, England.

Singapore

Government Lifts Entry Ban on Nine Malaysians

BK0312141990 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Dec 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Nine Malaysians who were banned from entering Singapore for their pro-communist activities have had their prohibition orders lifted, a government gazette announced last night.

The nine are Mr Abdul Samad Ismail, Mr James Puthucheary, his brother Dominic Puthucheary, Mr Fong Swee Suan, Mr S. Woodhull, Mr Chan Chiaw Thor, Mr Jamit Singh, Mr Lim Shee Ping and Mr Yap Ser Jin.

The gazette, announcing the lifting of the ban, was signed by law and Home Affairs Minister S. Jayakumar and dated Nov 28.

Except for Mr Samad, all had been banned from entering Singapore since 1966. Many of them were among more than 100 persons arrested in an exercise codenamed Cold Store carried out to prevent the communist united front from mobilising mass support against the Government.

Mr Samad was banned in 1976 when he was arrested by the Malaysian government for involvement in a communist plot. The decision to allow them to visit the Republic was one of the last taken by the Government headed by Mr Lee Kuan Yew at a Cabinet meeting he chaired on Wednesday. [28 November]

From Wednesday, when Mr Lee stepped aside as Prime Minister, all Government declarations or notifications in the gazette will be decisions taken by Mr Goh Chok Tong's Government.

Contacted in Kuala Lumpur last night, Mr Samad thanked the Government for letting him come to the Singapore, adding that he was grateful to God for the decision. He said the first thing he wanted to do was to visit his relatives here, many of whom he had not seen for years.

Lawyer James Puthucheary was surprised but happy to hear the news. He added that he was "not sad when the ban was imposed". He said that he might visit Singapore one day to see what Mr Lee Kuan Yew had achieved and what he had not. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Hun Sen Rejects Latest Sihanouk Invitation

BK0412054890 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0447 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 4—"Members of the SNC [Supreme National Council] from Phnom Penh will not participate in a meeting with Sihanouk and the other six members from the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea as proposed by the prince."

This was stated by Prime Minister Hun Sen during a 100,000-strong meeting held in the provincial town of Svay Rieng (125 km southeast of Phnom Penh) on December 2 to celebrate the founding anniversary of the United Front for National Salvation (now the United Front for Construction and Defense of the Kampuchean Fatherland).

Prime Minister Hun Sen already announced his refusal to attend such a meeting, as proposed by Prince Sihanouk, in his November 25 letter during a press briefing with 30 local and foreign mediamen in Phnom Penh on November 29. He said: "The quadripartite meeting is out of date and if it took place as expected, it would jeopardize the existence of the SNC set up in Jakarta and which now remains at a standstill."

However, he told the mass rally that the SNC members from Phnom Penh are always ready to attend a meeting to be organized by the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed his doubt about the capacity of the prince, who is not a member of the SNC, but he invites the SNC members to confer with him.

The convening of the SNC meeting must be proposed by His Excellency Chau Sen Kosal, because the latter was the chairman of the first SNC meeting held in Bangkok, and the SNC should meet in Bangkok because it has not yet finished its work at the first session.

On the possibility of Sihanouk's participation in the meeting, Hun Sen said it was up to the SNC members to decide such matters. He said it was not necessary to reconvene the SNC meeting if it is expected only to discuss the selection of Sihanouk as chairman, because this problem is already in an impasse.

Hun Sen also told the mass rally that the process of a political solution to the Cambodian problem was getting into a blind alley due to the Khmer opposition's attempt to usurp power by military means. Sihanouk declared in Paris, while consulting with U.S. officials, that he could not dissociate himself from the Polpotits, Hun Sen added.

Prime Minister Hun Sen further said the government of the State of Cambodia has tried its best to reach an early political solution to the Cambodian problem, but such a solution must be based on the following principles:

1. Non return of the genocidal regime;

2. Non dissolution of the Government of the State of Cambodia;

3. Non dissolution of the Cambodian Armed Forces; and

4. Non-violation of the Cambodian sovereignty by any country or international oganization.

Prime Minister Hun Sen also praised the all-round achievements recorded by the people of Svay Rieng under the leadership of the party, state, and front. He called on the local people to make ever greater efforts to contribute to the cause of national defence and construction, especially to assist the families of war invalids and actively take part in getting rid of all negative social phenomena.

Also present at the mass rally were Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Min Khin, secretary general of the Front, and Heng Samkai, secretary of the provincial party committee; and others.

VODK Applauds 26 Nov Paris Document

BK0212033290 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Station commentary: "The Cambodian People Will Continue To Join Forces With the Cambodian National Resistance To Do Whatever They Can To Force Vietnam and Its Lackey Puppets To Accept a Political Solution to the Cambodian Problem in Keeping With the Document Mapped Out by the Cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council"]

[Text] Following a thorough discussion on 26 November, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC], the cochairmen of the Paris international conferece on Cambodia, and the representative of the UN secretary general successfully hammered out a document for ending the 12-year Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia via a comprehensive political settlement.

The plan was drafted based on the five UNSC permanent members' 28 August 1990 framework document which has been endorsed by the UNSC and the 45th UN General Assembly. The draft document spells out an agreement on all substantial aspects of the settlement and a number of issues concerning the tasks of a UN transitional authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country, a cease-fire, elections, and so on. The cochairmen and the UNSC permanent members, through the draft document, have expressed their point of view that the current pressing issue is to elect the chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], and the Big Five have reaffirmed that should Samdech Norodom Sihanouk be elected as the SNC chairman, they would welcome this decision.

The continued efforts by the cochairmen of the Paris international conference on Cambodia and the five UNSC permanent members in holding meetings one after the other to work out a document on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem, and their achievement of this document at this round of talks is clear evidence that the international community remains indifferent to the objection by Vietnam and its lackey puppets who have vociferously voiced their opposition to the 28 August 1990 framework document, the UNTAC, a UN peacekeeping force, the election of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as SNC chairman, the troop regrouping, and the dissolution of the Vietnamese-installed regime in Phnom Penh. The settlement plan also explicitly shows that the international community, including the five UNSC permanent members, has firmly maintained that to settle Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia via a definitive comprehensive political solution, it is necessary that all Vietnamese troops and aggressor forces genuinely withdraw from Cambodia and that the puppet regime Vietnam installed in Phnom Penh in early 1979 should be dismantled to clear the way for the organization of free and just elections to elect a constituent assembly and to establish the Cambodian people's national government, thereby allowing Cambodia to recover independence, peace, unity, neutrality, and nonalignment within its territorial integrity. This is certainly a correct and just stance on the issue of Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia.

The Cambodian people wish to express their profound thanks to the Paris International Conference cochairmen, the five permanent members of the UNSC, and the UN representative, and are determined to join forces with the Cambodian National Resistance to continue all kinds of struggle both inside the country and in the international arena with a view toward driving the Hanoi authorities and the Vietnamese traitorous lackey puppets into accepting the settlement of the Cambodian problem in keeping with the above-mentioned document.

Resistance Steps Up Attacks Near Thai Border

BK0312130690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 3 (AFP)—Cambodian resistance guerrillas have stepped up their attacks on government troops along crucial routes near the Thai border as the dry season draws near, Thai military sources said Monday.

The military say the latest round of fighting, which could be heard and felt in the Thai border district of Aranyaprathet, began Sunday afternoon and lasted until midday Monday.

Guerrillas of the Marxist Khmer Rouge and Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) launched attacks along Highway 5, the main route that links Phnom Penh to the lucrative government-controlled market town of Poi Pet.

A Thai military officer at the border said the attack appeared to be well-planned and well-coordinated between the factions.

The KPNLF used 105 mm, 122 mm and 130 mm artillery, multiple rocket launchers and other weapons to attack Cambodian villages around the northern part of Highway 5, which is only 15 kilometers (nine miles) from Aranyaprathet, the officer said.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas from the 108th Regiment launched another attack two hours later along the route south of Poi Pet, 10 kilometers (six miles) from the border, the sources said.

Thai troops along the border have been put on alert although the fighting has not affected Thai villagers.

A Thai military officier who asked not to be identified said the latest attacks seemed to be aimed at harassing the Cambodian people and soldiers who come to Poi Pet for trade.

About 35,000 Cambodians have moved to the town, a trading post opposite the Thai black market town of Kok Sabeng, where border trade has dramatically expanded in the last month, he said.

Sihanouk Office Notes SRV Troop Shipments

BK0412013490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The office of the personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia on 30 November issued a statement disclosing that the Hanoi authorities had shipped 4,000 Vietnamese reinforcement troops from Vietnam and 3,000 puppet soldiers to Battambang and Oddar Meanchey battlefields aimed at intensifying the war of aggression against Cambodia during this dry season. The statement added that the Hanoi authorities had also sent 1,800 Vietnamese and puppet soldiers to Sisophon and 680 others to Samraong in Prey Veng Province in order to assist the 286th puppet division.

This is clear evidence that the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their lackey puppets in Phnom Penh have adamantly been against the document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the Jakarta agreement on establishing the Supreme National Council headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Indonesia

Singapore's Invitation to U.S. Military Viewed

BK2411105390 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 15 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The United States Finally Found Singapore as a Replacement for Clark and Subic"]

[Text] Last Tuesday [13 November], the United States and Singapore finally signed an agreement allowing the U.S. Navy and Air Force to expand the use of military facilities in our neighboring island country.

According to the agreement signed by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, the U.S. Navy is allowed to dispatch warplanes to Singapore several times a year for exercises, which will last several weeks. At the same time, the U.S. Navy also plans to increase the number and duration of warship visits to Singapore.

To attain such objectives, the United States will increase the number of its Navy and Air Force personnel in Singapore by about 95 men on an annual basis. At present, about 20 U.S. support personnel are already assigned in Singapore, where U.S. warships have for the last 25 years made stopovers for maintenance, repair, logistics supply, and for rest and recreation of the ship crews.

In August last year, Singapore offered the United States the opportunity to expand the use of its military facilities so as to reduce the superpower country's dependence on its naval and air bases in the Philippines, which is now conducting tough negotiations on the extension of the bases' lease.

We have noticed several points from the signing of the U.S.-Singapore agreement. First, from the U.S. side, the agreement is proof of the U.S. determination to maintain its military presence in Southeast Asia.

In its argument to support the move, the United States claims that it has helped contribute to the continued stability of the region, which has experienced sustained economic growth for a long time.

From the Singapore side, there are more varied interpretations. The most simple reason for the move is probably economic, in view of the fact that the United States has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in the Philippines to pay the salaries of its servicemen and Philippine employees as well as military maintenance and repair expenditures. However, Singapore obviously does not expect to get as much revenue as what the Philippines has received because Singapore does not give as much as what the Philippines has given to the United States.

Another consideration that manages to be a subject of speculation is the island nation's desire to upgrade its defense system in the widest sense of the word. Singapore is grouped together with Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and Malaysia in the FPDA [Five-Power Defense Arrangement], but this grouping is more consultative in nature than it is an efficient military pact. Singapore occasionally takes part in military exercises within the FPDA.

It is a fact that despite the close relations among ASEAN countries, Singapore, being a small country surrounded by bigger ones, suffers from a certain psychological complex which we fully understand.

We also understand Singapore's efforts to keep upgrading its military capabilities, among other things, by forging close ties with the Israeli military, purchasing four E-3C Hawkeye early warning planes and other military programs, all of which are aimed at turning this nation into a "Poisonous Shrimp" (the name of its military doctrine)—something which will poison anyone that tries to harass it.

It is possible that with the new agreement signed with the United States, Singapore is becoming more confident in facing its future.

Talking about the Asia-Pacific's future, we have often said the region has seen a general reduction of tension following the reduction of the cold war.

The Soviet Union has withdrawn the bulk of its MiG-23 jetfighter squadrons and naval forces from the region. Some quarters have said this withdrawal is an adequate reason to make the U.S. presence irrelevant. The United States is also thinking of reducing its forces in the region, for example in South Korea.

Some time ago we even heard a report that Vietnam had offered the United States the opportunity to utilize its Cam Ranh Bay base if the U.S. needs it.

Against the background of the overall context mentioned above, we are now witnessing fundamental changes in the arrangement of security in the Asia-Pacific. Also included in this process are the Sino-Soviet rapprochement, improved relations between the two Koreas and between the PRC and Vietnam, as well as a better prospect for a solution to the Cambodian problem.

In this context, some people wonder if Singapore's move to invite the presence of more U.S. military forces might not be viewed as a provocative act?

Singapore might have spelled out to its neighbors what was on its mind when it announced it would provide military facilities to the United States last year, but when the agreement had become a reality, it should have explained its motive behind such a move.

Any efforts by any country to upgrade its defense system is considered normal and we also believe that despite the new wind of change we mentioned earlier, there are still potential sources of conflict in the region, namely in the South China Sea.

What is now happening in the Gulf region may have influenced or convinced strategic planners in this region that a reduction in the cold war does not mean an end of security threats. In fact, difficult-to-predict regional conflicts break out more easily once big-time traditional players have withdrawn from the region.

Viewed from this context, we can fully understand Singapore's move, but if we see the issue from a different angle, namely the growth of nationalism in the Philippines and the spirit to decide national defense arrangement in many countries, Singapore's move can still raise a number of questions.

Paris, Jakarta Pressing for Cambodian Peace

BK0312125290 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told newsmen in Jakarta today that Indonesia and France, as co-chairmen of the international conference on Cambodia, will continue to intensify efforts to resolve problems that prevent the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC) from functioning.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas held a working meeting with Parliamentary Commission I to discuss a draft bill on Indonesia-Australia cooperation in Timor Gap.

According to Minister Ali Alatas, an agreement among Cambodia's warring factions on the appointment of the chairman of the SNC is very important because the SNC will represent Cambodia at the United Nations and at all international forums. He added that 12 members of the SNC will be invited by the co-chairmen to attend the Paris International Conference on Cambodia at a date yet to be fixed. He hoped that current problems facing the SNC could be settled comprehensively. Minister Ali Alatas will leave for Paris on 8 December.

Alatas Still Awaiting Confirmation From Paris

BK0412091790 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0857 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 4 (OANA-ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas is still waiting for confirmation from Paris before leaving here for the French capital to attend the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC) to help solve problems concerning the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC), it was learned here Tuesday.

A spokesman of the foreign office said that before his departure for Paris, Minister Alatas would have to attend a parliamentary hearing on a bill on the Indonesia-Australia cooperation in the Timor gap on Friday [7 December] evening.

Therefore, the spokesman said, the foreign minister has not fixed a date for his departure for Paris since there is no confirmation yet from the French Government on the PICC so far.

On Monday, Minister Alatas said that an agreement among the warring factions in Cambodia on who would be the chairman of the SNC was very important because the SNC would represent Cambodia in the United Nations and other international forums.

Seminar on PRC-Indonesian Trade Ends 27 Nov

BK2811101990 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0921 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 28 (OANA-ANTARA)—The 1990 seminar on Indonesian-People's Republic of China (PRC) trade and economic relations which took place here on November 26-27, was concluded on Tuesday night, producing a series of important formulation results for the development and enhancement of RI [Republic of Indonesia]-PRC bilateral trade cooperation.

The two-day international seminar which was attended by about 300 PRC and Indonesian entrepreneurs and several economists from the U.S., Britain, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, the PRC, and Indonesia itself, was closed by the chairman of the China Committee of Kadin Indonesia (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Budiharjo Sastrohadiwiryo.

The two-day seminar produced a series of formulation results which mentioned among other things that after five years of RI-PRC direct trade relations, followed by the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the 1990 seminar proceeded smoothly and in good time.

In a relatively short time since 1985, enhancement of bilateral trade relations, exchanges of information and mutual trade mission visits had smoothened the way towards closer economic and trade cooperation.

In this era of economic globalization and rapid growth of the Asia-Pacific region, Indonesia and the PRC constituted two "giants" in the Asian region, formulation said.

Indonesia and the PRC, it added, were optimistic that through enhancement of economic cooperation and mutual understanding between them, the targets which had been set in the two countries' respective five-year plans, would certainly be achieved.

The formulation also said that through exchanges of information and dialogue between the two countries, the two sides would be able to show concrete steps necessary for the laying of strong foundations for future growth in line with the general policy and prevailing general regulations.

The signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Singapore in 1985 and the assurances of the 1990 trade agreement signed in Jakarta recently, Indonesia and the PRC had expressed readiness to further enhance trade relations and to solve problems which still hampered the trade relations between the two sides.

It added that Indonesia and the PRC would be able to enlarge bilateral trade cooperation, particularly after the establishment of a joint commission on economic, trade and technological cooperation.

On shipping, the Indonesian side at the seminar's plenary session pointed out that actually 80 per cent of the merchandise transportation between Indonesia and China was carried out by Chinese merchant ships.

In this connection, it was proper that Indonesia and the PRC should cooperate in improving the level of operational capability of Indonesian shipping companies, the formulation said.

In the meantime, Indonesian and PRC business circles had expressed their satisfaction at the success of the first seminar although the seminar's formulation results were still far from what had been expected.

The PRC delegation which attended the seminar was the first PRC delegation which visited Indonesia after the normalization of RI-PRC diplomatic relations.

Pact Signed on Joint Venture Bank With SRV

BK2211092390 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Indonesia and Vietnam have agreed to open a joint-venture bank called Indovina Bank with its headquarters in Ho Chi Minh City and a branch office in Hanoi. According to financial sources in Hanoi today, the agreement on the opening of the first Indonesian-Vietnamese joint-venture bank was signed respectively yesterday by directors of Indonesia's Summa Bank and Vietnam's Industrial Commercial Bank. The joint-venture bank, which will handle foreign exchange and foreign fund transfer, is expected to promote Indonesian investments in Vietnam and increase trade between the two countries.

Minister Critical of Overstocking Crude Oil

OW3011082790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov. 30 KYODO—Indonesian Minister of Mining and Energy, Dr. Ginanjar Kartasasmita on Friday criticized industrialized countries, including Japan, for forcing crude oil prices up by overstocking.

Ginanjar told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the current surge in crude oil prices stems not from lack of supply but from overstocking by industrialized countries like Japan.

"Stocks that last for 150 days or more are too much," he said. Ginanjar said the price rise stems from psychological pressures since crude oil supply has grown to levels higher than before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Ginanjar said he will attend a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna on December 12 and act as an intermediary to settle any conflict that might occur among countries in deciding the price and supply of oil.

Prices are likely to stabilize in the future, he said, predicting a drop to about 21 dollars a barrel by next April.

On Indonesia's future oil prospects, Ginanjar said his country will change from an oil exporter to an oil importer by the year 2005. Indonesia expects to run out of oil by about the year 2020, and plans are being made to begin generating 7-10 million kilowatts of nuclear power by the three-year period starting from 2002, he said.

Minister Predicts Normal Oil Prices in 1991

BK3011122190 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0940 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov. 30 (OANA/ANTARA)—Mines and Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita believes that the prices of crude oil on the world market will be back to normal to around the average of 21 US dollars per barrel in 1991. The crude oil prices are estimated to be around 25-30 US dollars per barrel in February-March, and to decrease to about 21 US dollars per barrel in April, Ginandjar said here Friday.

Indonesia does not expect the prices to reach above 25 US dollars per barrel nor below 18 US dollars per barrel as had happened last June and July, he said.

Therefore, he added, in the forthcoming OPEC meeting in Vienna scheduled for December 12, 1990 Indonesia would remind other OPEC countries to be prepared for the post-crisis situation following the end of the Gulf crisis.

The OPEC meeting will discuss issues on the Gulf crisis and how to control oil productions back to the quotas set by OPEC in June 1990, he said.

For Indonesia, it would be difficult to reduce its production back to the quota at 1.374 million barrels per day, after having to increase its production to 1.4 million barrels per day in December 1990 and again to 1.5 million barrels per day in January 1991, according to the minister.

It would not be easy either for the other member countries of OPEC to reduce their productions in accordance to the normal quotas, he said.

Indonesia will readjust its production to the OPEC quota if other member countries will also abide by the regulation, Ginandjar Kartasasmita, who is also the OPEC alternate president, said.

Other topics to be discussed at the OPEC meeting include the need for a continous dialogue between oil consumers and producers because the results of the recent Geneva meeting was quite dissapointing.

Indonesia has the impression from the Geneva meeting that the oil consumers are not interested in discussing the energy issue with the producing countries. But, their interest is only in the environmental issues, the minister explained.

Ginandjar ruled out the predictions that the oil prices would increase to around 60 US dollars per barrel if the Gulf war breaks out. If the war breaks out, the oil prices will rise to about 40 US dollars per barrel at the maximum, and it will decrease again when the world oil supply is increased, he added.

At the moment, with the OPEC production reaching 22.5 million barrels per day the worst possible situation concerning the world oil prices, which will occur if the Gulf war breaks out, will not happen, stated.

Contract on Radio Transmitters Signed With UK

BK3011135190 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Alex Leo Zulkarnain, director general of Radio, Television and Film, representing the Indonesian Government today in Jakarta signed a contract with the British Government on the supply of transmitters to RRI [Radio Republic Indonesia]. The British Government was represented by John Frederick Mason, assistant director of Marconi Communications International Limited, while the Indonesian Marconi subsidiary, P.T. Astona Mitra Sabena, was represented by Agung Laksono.

According to Alex Leo Zulkarnain, the project was intended to further improve the quality of RRI's radio program transmissions nationwide. Nine 250-kilowatt transmitters costing 29 million pounds sterling will be stationed at Cimanggis in west Java and Ujungpandang in South Sulawesi.

Suharto on State System, Defense Institute

BK0412104490 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0912 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 4 (OANA-ANTARA)—A totalitarian and centralistic state system will not be able to keep up with the dynamism of a society that is pushed forward by science and technology, President Suharto said. The president made the observation when he received 60 participants of the 23rd batch of the regular course organized by the National Defence Institute (Lemhanas) Tuesday.

What is more suitable for our age is a system that opens opportunities for the growth and development of social initiatives and creativity. The proper role for government is to provide these opportunities, the president said.

In the ceremony, the president was flanked by Armed Forces Chief of Staff for general affairs Rear Admiral Sudibyo Raharjo and Lemhanas Governor Major General Sukarto.

The president pointed to the basic political and economic changes occurring in various countries. The superpowers have begun to dismantle and destroy their mass-destruction armaments while the presence of defence pacts is being felt to be no longer of use, he said.

They are working to keep their own houses in order in anticipation of the new age. However, many developing countries are in the meantime still trapped by their past problems.

Much funds, energies and thoughts have to be spent to overcome the problems before these countries can make use of their resources to improve the welfare of their people. We need to formulate proper policies for ourselves in facing these developments and for our national development in future years, President Suharto said.

Touching on the role of Lemhanas, President Suharto hoped that Lemhanas could be more open to enable communication with various circles of society.

The results of its strategic studies should be more popularized. We do need to develop Lemhanas as a national forum for strategic thinking, the head of state said.

President Suharto stated that strategic research institutes have the duty to give early signals of opportunities which could be used by the people and the government and to give warnings of the risks which have to be faced in the development process.

He is of the view that at the national level, the current strategic studies are already sufficient, but not yet at the regional level, for both the implementation of the national strategy and policy and as support for regional autonomy.

To think strategically means to make ourselves used to looking for and developing long-term opportunities, and to identify potential obstacles in the national as well as regional levels, he said.

He said the Indonesian people has passed the critical period in the national development. The current task now is to concentrate the mind and energy to make improvement, he added. We should not be afraid of facing the risks, because there is no work without risks. But, we need to minimize the risks and implement the task carefully, he said.

The president later held a cordial meeting with the armed forces office [words indistinct].

Minister on Establishment of Rival Trade Union

BK0112134290 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 17 Nov 90 p 6

[Excerpt] Surabaya, KOMPAS—Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs Sudomo says the government will not tolerate the establishment of Jakarta-based SBMI [Indonesian Independent Trade Union], a new trade union movement, which will be a rival to the existing SPSI [All Indonesian Trade Union] because the government recognizes only one organization for every profession.

Sudomo said this to newsmen after addressing a seminar entitled: "How To Enhance the Stability of Industrial Society" organized by the East Java chapter of Golkar [Functional Group] regional executive council in Surabaya on Friday [16 November]. According to H.J. Princen, one of the founders, the new trade union was established as a manifestation of the unionists' freedom to organize and also as a result of the SPSI's neglect of the workers' welfare. The freedom to organize, guaranteed by Article 28 of the 1945 Constitution, is an important instrument for the workers to safeguard their interests.

Sudomo said that in accordance with Law Number 8/1985 on social organizations, a new organization must be registered with the Minister of Home Affairs. "However, the government will not accept the registration application of such a rival trade union because it cannot tolerate its existence," Sudomo said. [passage omitted]

Drivers Protest Plans To Restrict Operations

BK2911114090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 29 (AFP)—More than 5,000 drivers of bajajs, the city's three-wheeled scooter taxis, marched Thursday in Jakarta's main streets to protest against a city plan to restrict their operations. The drivers gathered in the city's central Monas Square before marching to the nearby city hall to express their rejection of the restrictions.

Starting Monday, bajajs will be limited to residential areas only and barred from most of the city's main commercial streets. After failing to meet Governor Wiyogo Atmodarminto to air their views, the drivers split into different groups each heading home through the city's main arteries.

The largest group of about 3,000 marched south carrying banners, some reading "Indonesia is not Japan", "What does independence mean if we live in poverty." The peaceful rally was marred by the wrecking of a private car after it unintentionally brushed one of the demonstrators, eyewitnesses said.

It was the second rally by bajaj drivers this week. An earlier demonstration took place on Tuesday when more than 1,000 drivers marched to seek an explanation of the ban from officials. About 100 drivers sought but failed to see representatives of the city legislative council.

The government's plan to push the bajajs into residential areas was aimed at providing a replacement for the becak, the three-wheeled pedicab which was banned from most of Jakarta early this year.

Security Forces Said To Kill 10 Rebels in Aceh

BK3011045190 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 22 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Security forces in Aceh have killed and captured ten members of a rebel group described as a "security disturbance gang" [GPK] in a series of military operations in the northern province of Sumatera.

A press release issued by the North Sumatera Military Command in Medan, North Sumatera yesterday said that in one military operation earlier this month, security troops killed six GPK members, including a spiritual leader and commander of a unit of the rebel group.

The 45-year-old man known as the "Lion of Marente" used to boast that he could not be killed by a bullet and was invisible to his enemies.

Security troops seized a boxful of amulets, knives, and army uniforms in the rebel hideout.

In another military operation in northern Aceh, security troops killed four other GPK members and captured an undisclosed number of them.

ANTARA reported yesterday the troops also seized food supplies and destroyed rebel hideouts deep in the remote jungle.

The agency said the security forces claimed that many rebels had also surrendered to the security troops.

Hundreds of residents in the districts of Tanjung Punti and Jambo Ayer in northern Aceh were helping security forces in flushing the rebels out of their hiding places. In one place, several rebels who were hiding in a river were discovered with the help of local villagers.

ANTARA said that in a military operation launched on Nov. 8 in the area, security forces "annihilated" many members of the rebel group and seized three firearms, an undisclosed quantity of explosives, and a quantity of ammunition.

It said the troops also seized army uniforms used by the rebels in their movement to create the impression that their murderous acts against the local population were committed by government troops.

Meanwhile, police in Medan have arrested several GPK leaders and sympathizers on charges of soliciting support for the movement among Aceh students and youth in the North Sumatera capital.

ANTARA said more and more residents in Aceh were rallying to the government as security troops stepped up military operations against the rebels.

It said most of the rebel forces had been driven into the unihabited part of the province deep in the jungle.

ANTARA said that security troops were expected to step up their drive against the Aceh rebel movement at the beginning of next month.

Laos

Grand Rally Held To Mark National Day

BK0212063790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] A grand rally to celebrate the 15th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] was held in Vientiane this morning with the attendance of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers; Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the LPRP CC Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Souphanouvong, member of the LPRP CC Political Bureau and president of state; Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP CC Political Bureau, acting president of state, chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction Central Committee, and chairman of the Organizing Committee to Celebrate the Four Main Historic Anniversaries in 1990; together with other members and alternate members of the LPRP CC Political Bureau; comrade members of the LPRP CC; ministers and deputy ministers; representatives of mass organzations; and tens of thousands of Vientiane residents.

Attending the grand rally marking the 15th anniversary of the National Day as honored guests were Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the State Council of the SRV; Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, member of the VPC Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister of the SRV; and Comrade Bou Thang, member of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia.

At the grand rally filled with a joyous atmosphere, after Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan, member of the LPRP CC Political Bureau and secretary of the party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality, delivered a speech officially opening the rally, Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan addressed the rally.

Resolution of 5th Regular Assembly Session Noted

BK0112120890 Vientiane KPL in English 1021 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, December 1 (KPL)— Following the endorsement of seven laws at the fifth regular session, the People's Supreme Assembly, on November 29 issued a resolution of this session.

It notes that the PSA's fifth regular sesion during November 24-29, 1990 unanimously endorsed seven laws on labor, family, Lao nationality, insurances, enterprise accounting, noncontractual obligations, and civil case proceedings.

The session acknowleges that since the second extraordinary session in November 1989 to the fifth session, the PSA has enacted 16 laws. These laws constitute a basis to the state law structure contributing to the improvement of the social order and of the people's self-mastery. At the same time, they also helped to improve the social management and political system. The session also expresses thanks to every sector's effort and contribution to the drafting of these laws.

It is commonly acknowledged that though the drafting of these laws is important, it is only the initial step. But the implementation of the laws in reality is decisive.

The session has assigned the standing committees of the PSA and of the Council of Ministers to direct organisations concerned in strictly putting these laws into practice.

The session also calls on all compatriots to study and thoroughly assimilate the laws to the point that in practice, they strictly respect and observe the enacted laws. It also calls for cooperation from people to oppose any acts of violation of the laws.

Vo Chi Cong, Delegation Arrive in Vientiane

BK3011154590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] A high-level SRV party and state delegation led by Comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the SRV Council of State, arrived in Vientiane Capital this afternoon to pay a friendship visit to Laos and attend the celebration of the 15th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] at the invitation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and the LPDR Government.

Accompaning Comrade Vo Chi Cong during this visit to Laos are Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister; Comrade Nguyen Viet Dung, general secretary of the Office of the Council of State; Comrade Lieutenant General (Dang Vu Hiep), member of the CPV Central Committee and deputy defense minister; and Comrade (Dinh Van Liem), assistant to the chairman of the Council of State.

The official welcoming cermony for the delegation was held at Wattai International Airport. At the airport to accord a warm reception to the delegation were: Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and acting president of the Republic; Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister; Comrade Oudom Khatthi-gna, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the party Central Committee Organizational Board, and a number of leading cadres of the party and state.

Also present at the airport to welcome the delegation was Comrade Nguyen Xuan, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos.

Phoumi Receives SRV Group

BK0112121090 Vientiane KPL in English 0955 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 1 (KPL) - Phoumi Vongvichit, politburo member of the Lao PRP CC [People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee], acting president of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] today morning received a party and state delegation of Vietnam led by its politburo member and President of the State Council Vo Chi Cong, who leads his delegation to visit Laos and attend the celebration of the 15th National Day of Laos.

The acting president said to the delegation that the current visit had contributed to strengthening the ties of friendship, special solidarity and all-round cooperation between Laos and Vietnam.

The two leaders recalled their past revolutionary struggle against imperialists.

Phoumi Vongvichit also made a remark that as the two countries had currently conducted restructuring, the solidarity and cooperation between their parties, states, and peoples were regarded even more important for each other's development.

Vo Chi Cong acclaimed the all-round achievements of Laos over the past 15 years especially during the period of restructuring under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. He then reaffirmed his party and government's committment to rengthening the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between Vietnam and Laos so as to advance socioeconomic development in each country.

Heng Samrin, Delegation Arrive in Vientiane

BK3011154790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] A high-level delegation of the party and state of the State of Cambodia, led by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of Cambodia, left Phnom Penh on a special plane and arrived at Vientiane Capital at 1655 [0955 GMT] on 30 November to pay a friendship visit and attend the celebration of the 15th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] at the invitation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and the LPDR Government.

Accompanying Comrade Heng Samrin during the visit are Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the KPRP

Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Chan Ven, member of the party Central Committee and general secretary of the Council of State's Cabinet; Comrade Im Chhunlim, member of the party Central Committee and first deputy head of the office of the party Central Committee; Comrade Em Sam-an, standing member of the party Central Committee and SPK director; Comrade Hok Langdi, chairman of Phnom Penh City People's Committee; and Comrade Long Visalo, deputy foreign minister of the State of Cambodia.

An honorable reception ceremony was held at Wattai airport for the delegation. Present at the airport to welcome the delegation were: Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and acting president of the republic; Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister; Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and education and sports minister; Comrade General Sisavat Keobounphan, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and Secretariat and chairman of Vientiane Municipaility Administrative Committee; Comrade Lieutenant Osakan Thammatheva, member of the party Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and head of the General Political Departy of the National Defense Ministry; members of the party Central Committee, ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking cadres, and Vientiane residents.

The delegation was also greeted at the airport by Comrade Long Kem, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Cambodia to Laos and embassy staff members.

Phoumi Meets Heng, Delegation

BK0112143290 Vientiane KPL in English 1044 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, December 1 (KPL)— Phoumi Vongvichit, politburo member of the Lao PRP CC [People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee], acting president of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], today morning received here a visiting delegation of the Cambodian party and state led by its general secretary and president of the State Council Heng Samrin who is here on a goodwill visit and to attend the celebration of the 15th national day of the Lao PDR.

After hailing the delegations' visit to Laos, Phoumi Vongvichit informed the Cambodian party and state delegation of the 15-year achievements in Laos' economic development and defence.

On his part, Heng Samrin, who was very pleased to have come to Laos on the occasion, acclaimed the effort and success of Laos in its national development and defence over the past 15 years, which he said, is a contribution to the common victory of the three countries in Indochina.

The heads of the two states confirmed each other of their constant effort to develop the ties of friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between Laos and Cambodia as well as between Laos-Cambodia-Vietnam.

The acting president of Laos acclaimed the achievements in the national development and defence of Cambodia, voice support for the consistent effort by the party and State of Cambodia in seeking a peaceful political solution to their national issue.

After visiting the acting president, Heng Samrin led his party to lay wreath at the unknown-soldiers monument to pay tribute to Lao revolutionary combatants who sacrificed their lives for the national cause.

Kaysone Meets Heng Samrin

BK0112115190 Vientiane KPL in English 0945 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, December 1 (KPL)—Mr. Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutioary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers, welcomed here this morning a delegation of the Cambodian party and state leaders headed by Mr. Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia, on visit to Laos to attend the celebration of the 15th national day of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

During the discussion proceeding in an atmosphere of good understanding and cordiality, Mr. Heng Samrin expressed his satisfaction for the welcome rendered to him by the Lao party and state leaders on his visit to Laos to participate in the celebration of the Lao national day. He also brought along with him special friendship and all-round cooperation of the Cambodian party, state and people to the entire Lao party, state and people. He appreciated the achievement and victory gained from the Lao people's sacrifice and ardent patriotism over the past 15 years under the clear sighted guidance of the Lao PRP [People's Revolutionary Party].

Heng Samrin also pointed out to Kaysone Phomvihan the Cambodian struggle for national defence adding that now the reactionary forces have been conducting a very hostile policy against the Cambodian people. This, however, has made the state of unity between the Cambodian people and the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, the Government of the State of Cambodia, on the one hand, and the solidarity and cooperation between them and those of the fraternal Indochinese countries, on the other, even stronger, thus serving as a factor decisive to the defence of Cambodia.

Heng Samrin then spoke of the development in Cambodia after the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops, saying that the Cambodian people and armed forces have been active in all respects in fighting the enemy. Consequently, the tension has eased. That is why, he said, the Cambodian people and armed forces which are strong enough are ready to counterattack the enemy for the cause of peace and freedom of the Cambodian people.

General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan speaking on behalf of the executive committee of the LPRP CC and Government of Laos hailed the visit to Laos by the top delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Heng Samrin. On the other hand, he hailed the achievements of the Cambodian people in national defence and construction following the withdrawal of the voluntary Vietnamese troops. He also acclaimed and supported the constant stance of the State of Cambodia on a peaceful, political and fair solution to the Cambodian issue, expressing hope that the issue will be settled very soon thus meeting the ardent aspiration of the Cambodian people who long for a happy and peaceful life.

Kaysone Phomvihan informed his Cambodian counterpart of the 15-year achievements in national development and defence, especially following the application of the new thinking as well as the opening of cooperation with foreign countries in the interest of building an increasingly strong economy.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their committment to the development of the bilateral ties of friendship, special solidarity and all-round cooperation between Laos and Cambodia and between Laos-Cambodia-Vientnam so as to counterattack the dark design of the enemy who wishes to destroy the revolution of the three Indochinese countries.

Official on Visit by PRC's Li Peng, Ties

BK0312143490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 3 (AFP)—Chinese Premier Li Peng will make an official visit to Laos from December 15 to 17, a government official said here Monday.

"We want to promote good relations between our two countries, and important steps are already being taken in this direction," said Laotian Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Soulivong Phrasithidet.

Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihan made an official visit to Beijing in October 1989, which marked the first improvement in relations between the two countries.

Laos and China have a border dispute, and they also differ about a solution to the Cambodian conflict. Laos supports the pro-Vietnamese government in Phnom Penh, while China is the principal supporter of the rebel Khmer Rouge, the most powerful of the Cambodian resistance factions.

"I have just gone to Beijing for discussions on the border dispute and we made great progress toward a settlement of the issue," Mr. Soulivong said.

According to Laotian officials, China is already on its way to becoming Laos' primary trade partner. Laos, landlocked in the Indochinese peninsula, is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Indochinese Leaders Meet in Vientiane 2 Dec

BK0312063990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Yesterday afternoon [2 December], the high-level delegations of the parties and states of the three Indochinese countries—Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam—held a meeting at the meeting hall of the office of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] in Vientiane.

Attending the meeting on the Lao side were Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers as head of the delegation; Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and acting president of the republic; Comrade General Khamtai Siphandon, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of national defense; Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Oudom Khatthi-gna, alternate Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and head of the organizing committee of the Party Central Committee; along with comrade members of the Party Central Committee and a number of ministers and deputy ministers.

Attending on the Cambodian side were Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, as head of the delegation; Comrade General Bou Thang, Political Bureau member of the KPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Im Chunlim, Political Bureau member of the KPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Long Visalo, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Comrade Long Kem, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Cambodia to Laos.

Attending on the Vietnamese side were Comrade Vo Chi Cong, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, as head of the delegation; Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, Political Bureau member of the CPV Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Nguyen Viet Dung, general secretary of the Council of State; Comrade Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, member of the CPV Central Committee and deputy minister of foreign affairs; Comrade (Dinh Van Niem), assistant to chairman of the Council of State; and Comrade Nguyen Xuan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to Laos.

The meeting and talks among the high-level delegations of the three Indochinese countries proceeded in an atmosphere of profound friendship and close solidarity of fraternity and comradeship. In the meeting, the three sides informed one another of the situation in their respective countries. They also exchanged views on the relations among the three countries—Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam—and international and regional issues of common interest. The three sides have reached a complete unanimity in assessing all the issues raised for discussion.

On this occasion, Comrade Heng Samrin and Comrade Vo Chi Cong have highly assessed and expressed satisfaction over the great and significant achievements won in the cause of effecting new changes in the LPDR. Kaysone Phomvihan expressed satisfaction over and highly appreciated the successes achieved in the cause of national defense and revival in the State of Cambodia and in the cause of socialist construction in Vietnam.

In the meeting, the LPDR and the SRV sides have highly assessed the just and correct stand, good intentions, and efforts of the government of the State of Cambodia, which has aimed to justly and comprehensively settle the political problem through a peaceful and reasonable means in conformity to the reality in Cambodia, and on the basis of national conciliation and the respect of the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

Philippines

Official: U.S. Stand May Cause Talks Impasse

BK0412065490 Manila PNA in English 0623 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Manila, Dec. 4 (OANA/PNA)—Insistence by the Americans that they be allowed unhampered access to their military facilities despite the Philippines sovereign control over them is likely to cause an impasse in the bases talks set to resume tomorrow.

A presidential palace official, who took part in the technical talks on the bases last week, said the US panel members had insisted that the status quo be maintained.

In effect, the official, who asked not to named, said the Americans want to rehash the current military bases agreement that grants the US unlimited access to the facilities. At the moment, we have not seen a dramatic change in their position. They want more of the same, the official said. They want the easy way out.

The source said that the Philippines wants a qualitative and quantitative change in any new arrangement of the bases because conditions prevailing now are different.

He said that the US request for unhampered use of the facilities is non-negotiable to the Philippines panel had slightly changed its position on the matter of taking sovereign control over all of the military installation, including Subic and Clark. [sentence as received] He said that while the US is insisting on taking ownership of the facilities to pave the [way] for a strict owners-tenant arrangement. [sentence as received]

Spokesman: 'Impasse' Reached

HK0412075990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0740 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Manila, Dec 4 (AFP)—The Philippine Government Tuesday said talks on the future of U.S. bases in the country had reached an impasse because Washington refused to cede control of key facilities at Clark Air Base.

Philippine spokesman Rafael Alunan disclosed the unexpected snag as U.S. chief negotiator Richard Armitage arrived for one-on-one talks with his counterpart Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus prior to full-blown meetings.

Mr. Alunan said that members of the Philippine technical panel that had been meeting with the U.S. side prior to this week's talks reported that "there was an impasse," which both chief negotiators were to take up Tuesday.

"I hope these difficulties will be surmounted. After all, we would like to look at the future on the basis of a more equitable partnership," he said.

Mr. Alunan said problems arose when the Philippines declared its plan to take control of the runway and air traffic at Clark Air Base, a fighter and transport facility, and allow U.S. access only to "standing structures."

"There has been very stiff resistance from the U.S.," he said.

The Philippines indicated at the last round of talks that it wanted to gain greater control of Clark in 1991 while allowing relatively unaltered U.S. access to Subic Naval Base, considered the more vital of the two facilities.

Mr. Alunan said there were also difficulties on "non-security concerns" like criminal jurisdiction over U.S. personnel, tariffs, income taxes and duties.

"From the way it looks, the Americans would like to maintain the status quo, and in fact even improve on their position," he complained. "And naturally we were resisting because the whole essence of the (talks) is to exercise our sovereignty over the facilities."

Mr. Alunan, who earlier expressed optimism that both sides will reach agreement by January, said that he "wouldn't want to speculate" now about the deadline agreed upon by both allies. If the deadline is not met, both countries would convene to prepare for the dismantling of all U.S. facilities by September 1991, when the current U.S. lease expires.

Philippine senators warned that they will block any treaty extending the stay of U.S. bases beyond the end of the lease.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution prescribes that the U.S. forces can stay at Clark, Subic and four support facilities after 1991 only under a new treaty ratified by two-thirds of the Senate.

Anti-bases senators currently hold enough votes to block a treaty, although some analysts say the ratio could still change.

The Philippine panel itself has softened its stance since the first round of talks began in May. After the third round ended, Manila hinted that a five to seven-year U.S. lease on Subic and commercial access to Clark was possible.

Senate President Jovito Salonga, however, said Tuesday that even this arrangement "will not be acceptable to the Senate."

Warns of Possible Talks Breakdown

HK0412100190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 4 Dec 90

[By Dick Sinchongco]

[Text] Philippine panel spokesman Rafael Alunan III warned of a possible breakdown of the third series of Philippines-U.S. talks regarding the future of the American military facilities in the country. Alunan issued the statement amid the American panel's continuous opposition to the Philippines taking full control of the American facilities. In an ambush interview with Malacanang newsmen, Alunan explained the U.S. wants to maintain a status quo on the issue regarding the Philippines jurisdiction on tariffs, income taxes, duties, licences, and registration. Alunan said the Philippine panel will insist on this because it relates to the sovereign control of the nation which hosts the American facilities. Alunan also stressed the need to enforce the country's laws on the American facilities. The third series of talks will start tomorrow and is expected to pave the way for the formation of an agreement between the Philippines and the United States.

Strong Stand on Bases Compensation Urged

HK0412043790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 4 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Bases 'Rental' Signifies Mature RP-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] Philippine negotiators will face their American counterparts tomorrow in what promises to be the toughest round in the series of talks on the future of the U.S. military bases.

Having practically agreed that the U.S. should have access to the facilities during a still-to-be-specified phaseout (or phasedown) period, the negotiators will open discussions on compensation.

The Philippine panel has not given a ballpark figure for the rental it would demand. But some Philippine senators have quoted the price for keeping the bases at $1 billion a year, a sum that several U.S. legislators have described as tantamount to blackmail.

The U.S. panel, which had earlier criticized its opposite number for engaging in "cash register diplomacy," will surely cite such opposition to raising the ante from their legislators to haggle for a much smaller package. It could also plead for understanding of the tight financial fix in which the U.S. government now finds itself, especially the huge budget deficits it has been incurring in recent years.

Regardless of how the U.S. panel or U.S. officials feel about it, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, who heads the RP [Republic of the Philippines] panel, should insist on a substantial compensation for the use of the bases. The bottomline should be the current level of $200 million a year. Anything less would be considered a sellout, making it more difficult for the Aquino administration to sell a new treaty to the Philippine people.

Moreover, Manglapus should not fall into the trap of accepting any provision that merely binds the U.S. president to exert his "best efforts" to get the agreed compensation from Congress. This provision (contained in several executive agreements) has been a perennial irritant in the relations between the two countries. The U.S. Congress has more than once reduced "foreign assistance" allocations to the Philippines recommended by the president under almost any pretext. The Philippines has been shortchanged once too often in the past, and there is no guarantee the U.S. Congress will act differently in the future.

In other words, the compensation package should be an integral part of the treaty the Philippine Constitution requires for use of any part of Philippine territory by any foreign armed forces.

Another point that should be stressed in a new treaty is that any compensation for the use of the bases is rental, not aid. The distinction involves more than semantics. For if the U.S. government considers it as aid or foreign assistance, it would have the prerogative of dictating how the money will be used. Under the existing RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement, this failure to specify the type of compensation leaves the U.S. Congress free to choose the mix, such as economic assistance, foreign military sales credit, etc.

If the compensation is clearly identified as rental, then the Philippine Government will determine how the proceeds will be spent depending on the nation's priorities. Such a straightforward definition of terms will help underscore the maturation of RP-U.S. relations into an equal partnership.

Aquino Welcomes U.S. Decision To Talk to Iraq

HK0312104190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 3 Dec 90

[By Dick Sinchongco]

[Text] President Cory Aquino was pleased with the U.S.-Iraq decision to start talks toward a possible peaceful resolution of the Middle East crisis. In a conference, the president said she is happy with U.S. President George Bush's decision to send U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to talk to Iraqi strongman Saddam Husayn. It is said that the talks will lead to a peaceful resolution of the Middle East crisis brought about by Iraq's 2 August invasion of Kuwait. The president said the Philippine Government will not send soldiers to Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational forces against Iraq:

[Begin Aquino recording, in English] We're considering not sending our own military to Saudi Arabia. In fact, if you will recall when the Kuwaiti minister was here and the day before [words indistinct] Secretary Manglapus about the possibility of us sending troops to Saudi Arabia and I had explained to the minister the day after that I was not obliged to do so because we have our own problems here. We have our problems with the military rebels. [end recording]

The president stressed the Phlilippine Government supports the United Nations' resolution authorizing the multinational forces headed by the United States to use force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. The resolution gives Iraq until 15 January to leave Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the president announced the first batch of the Philippine medical mission is set to leave on 15 January to help the multinational forces based in Saudi Arabia.

Government Prepares Evacuation Plan for Gulf

HK0412045590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 90 pp 1, 9

[By Booma Cruz]

[Text] The government is firming up a comprehensive contingency plan to ensure the safety of Philippine workers in case of a shooting war in the Middle East, Labor Undersecretary Nieves Roldan-Confesor said yesterday.

"We have several responses for different scenarios that could actually happen in the Middle East," Confessor said. "Everything would depend on the type of war, the areas affected, the duration of the war, who gets hit first and the ability of the other party to hit back."

She added: "We're ready for any eventually, but let's pray that things would not get worse."

The government, Confesor said, started drafting a comprehensive plan to address the Gulf crisis after the United Nations Security Council voted last week to allow the use of force against Iraq if it fails to withdraw its forces from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

The contingency plan, drafted by a committee composed of representatives from the departments of foreign affairs and labor, National Security Council and other government agencies, covers the entire Gulf region, particularly Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

For instance, Confesor said, an evacuation plan is already in place for the 120,000 Filipinos working in the eastern provinces of Saudi Arabia if war erupts. This calls for the evacuation of the workers to Riyadh and Jeddah, she said, adding that the workers have already been identified, divided into teams and assigned specific roles.

Saudi Arabia, Confesor said, has assured the Aquino government of assistance in the implementation of this plan. There are now about 500,000 Philippine workers in the kingdom.

Due to the worsening Gulf crisis, Sen. Ernesto Herrera asked Malacanang yesterday to suspend the deployment of Philippine workers to the Middle East.

Herrera, chairman of the Senate labor committee, sent a memorandum to President Aquino pointing out that the government's first priority should be the lives of its 600,000 citizens still in the Gulf area. "I know that you will agree with me in saying that despite our overwhelming need for additional dollar remittances, it is simply not worth it to risk the lives of more Filipinos by sending them to work in the Middle East," he wrote the President.

In his two-page memo, Herrera observed that Mrs Aquino's order to prepare contingency measures to protect the workers contradicted the government's failure to halt the deployment of Filipinos in the war-torn region. But there are already strong indications that the government would hold the deployment of "nonessential skills" to the Gulf.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration [OWWA] chief Atanacio Maronilla proposed a slowdown in such deployment, saying, "A study should immediately be conducted to determine if demands in the Middle East for particular skill categories have declined in recent years."

"Measures must be instituted to ensure that only workers belonging to skills categories still in demand are deployed," he added. Among those classified in the nonessential skills category are domestic helpers and service workers who account for about 20% of the Filipinos in the Middle East.

Confesor herself admitted there is a slowdown in the actual deployment of workers since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. "Deployment would probably continue to decline since December is not a good month to leave because of the holidays and workers are hesitant to work in the Gulf region because of the possibility of the war," she said.

In Malacanang, Mrs Aquino said the Philippines would avail itself of a UN fund established to assist nations that suffer economic losses due to the enforcement of the UN resolutions against Iraq. She also welcomed the initiative of U.S. President Bush to open talks with Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn for a possible peaceful settlement of the conflict.

At her regular press conference, Mrs Aquino confirmed that the Philippines had sent an information to the UN, placing at $700 million the country's economic losses due to the "religious enforcement" of the UN sanctions against Iraq. But she stressed that in sending the information, the Philippines was "not billing" the UN.

The President also reiterated she would not send troops to back the U.S. led multinational force in the Gulf.

Military Chief Leaves for Thailand, Singapore

BK0212111090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Manila, Dec 2 (AFP)—Philippine Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa left Sunday on a two-nation tour of Thailand and Singapore for consultations with his counterparts, a military statement here said.

Gen. De Villa is to consult with General Sunthon Khongsomphong, the supreme commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and Lieutenant General Winston W. L. Choo, chief of the Singapore defence force, it said.

Agreement on $358 Million Japanese Loan Reached

HK0412042190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 90 p 11

[By Arleen Chpongian]

[Text] The government has reached agreement with the Japanese government on the Philippines share in the $2-billion Asean-Japan Development Fund (AJDF).

A memorandum of understanding had been signed yesterday and disbursement of the $358 million allocation to the Philippines is expected in the first quarter of 1991.

A top-level ministerial mission from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan and the Japan Export Import Bank will be in Manila next month to finalize the terms of the loan.

Release of the Japanese loan early next year indicated that the disbursement would be made part of the second pledging session for the Philippines Assistance Program.

By January, a new economic stabilization program with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would also have been in place.

Of the $358 million Philippine share, $308 million is expected to be coursed through the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines [DBP] for relending, while the balance of $50 million will be through the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).

DBP Chairman Roberto F. de Ocampo said in a briefing yesteday that of the $308 million expected to be coursed through the DBP, $83 million will come from Japan Eximbank and $225 million from the OECF.

He said the Eximbank component of the AJDF would carry the same terms as the industrial restructuring program of the World Bank [WB]. First made available last year through a $65 million credit, the WB loan carry concessional terms that offer below-market rate of about 21%.

According to DBP senior vice-president Manuel Reyes, the Eximbank component of the AJDF will carry rates of 7.2%, while the OECF portion will have a concessional rate of 2.5%, with both facilities payable over 30 years, inclusive of a 10-year grace period.

Reyes said that based on a proposed agreement with the Japanese government, the percentage point of earnings from the AJDF facility will be used by the bank to start a pool of funds to develop training facilities and research and development of local firms.

The AJDF was launched in 1987 during the ASEAN economic ministers' meeting by former Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita.

Negotiations with the Philippines started in 1987 although no agreement had been reached until the signing of the aide memoir yesterday.

Disagreement primarily centered on the interest rates the AJDF was proposed to carry. The Philippines wanted market rates while Japan preferred concessional rates because the fund was part of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) program.

The aide memoir was signed yesterday following discussions between a technical mission from the OECF and Japan Eximbank with Philippine economic officials over the last two weeks.

Aquino Rejects Return of Imelda Marcos

HK0312134290 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino rejected the return to the country of Mrs. Imelda Marcos even if the ill-gotten wealth is recovered, saying Mrs. Marcos should first prove her sincerity. The president likewise rejected California District Court Judge (Mariana Kilshar)'s wish for her to face the court in relation to the out of court settlement between the PCGG [Philippine Commission on Good Government] and the Marcoses. The president said she would order Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig to face the court because Macaraig was present during a talk with PCGG Chairman David Castro regarding the Marcos' Hong Kong bank accounts:

[Begin Aquino recording, in English] At present, I would prefer that Imelda Marcos stays abroad and that whatever settlements are made will not be contingent or will not depend on her being allowed to return here, because I will also like to see a sign of sincerity on the part of the Marcos family, that they are indeed wanting to reconcile and to return whatever legally belongs to this government and to the people. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig is scheduled to testify at the trial by the California District Court in relation to the Marcos' ill-gotten wealth. It is expected that Macaraig will clarify the issue on the alleged agreement between the PCGG and Mrs. Marcos in relation to a return of a part of the Marcos' wealth in exchange for the dismissal of civil suits against them.

The Aquino government is trying to recover about $50-million worth of properties, including the Redwood Bank, California Overseas Bank, Makiki Heights mansion, Beverly Hills Mansion, and bank deposits in the Sanwa Bank. Today, Secretary Macaraig met with Allan (Bersin), the PCGG's American lawyer. Meanwhile, (Bersin) admitted that the Philippine Government does not know the real amount of the Marcos' bank deposits in Hong Kong.

It will be recalled that a huge part of the bank deposits was offered by Mrs. Marcos' lawyer. The trial at the California District Court will take place on 10 December.

In other news, President Aquino rejected a request by Congressman Jose de Venecia for the Philippines to appeal to the United States to withdraw its military forces from the Gulf. According to the president, the Philippines will continue to support any United Nations' measure.

The president also opposed the suggestion to send Philippine soldiers to the Persian Gulf saying the Philippines is facing a security problem and that it is not a good idea to send soldiers outside the country.

The president also stressed that the country cannot avoid an increase in the price of petroleum products. Earlier, oil companies expressed their wish to raise the oil price more than the Energy Regulatory Board has allowed:

[Begin Aquino recording, in English] Well, first of all, we have to accept the reality that oil prices have indeed risen because of the Gulf crisis. Prior to the August crisis, the oil that we were buying was costing US$16 a barrel and at that time, the peso vis-a-vis the dollar was at 21 pesos. But as we know now, the price of oil really has escalated and has gone to as high as, well I think to date it has gone up to US$25.75, but the value of the peso has depreciated and is now 28 pesos to the dollar. I think it is a matter of accepting reality that where the price of oil has gone up and where we are. [end recording]

Congressman Urges Christmas Season Cease-Fire

HK0312114390 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Cotabato Congressman Andolana today called on the government and the National Democratic Front [NDF] to declare a cease-fire during the Christmas season. Here is Rene Techangco with the details:

[Begin recording] Congressman Andolana proposed that this commence on 16 December until 6 January next year. The Cotabato solon urged President Aquino and the rebel leadership to order the suspension of all operations within the dates mentioned. According to him, in order to expedite the cease-fire, the government and the NDF need only declare their forces will not get involved in any encounters. Andolana said there is no need for a face to face negotiation. However, the congressman proposed that should the president want a more detailed agreement, she should be prepared to accept proposals from the rebels including an assurance for their representatives' safety. [end recording]

Biazon Supports Cease-Fire Call

HK0412100990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 4 Dec 90

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] Armed Forces of the Philippines Acting Chief of Staff Major General Rodolfo Biazon has expressed his support for the proposed cease-fire with the rebel groups during the Christmas season, but stressed the need for a guarantee that the rebels would respect the cease-fire agreement. Biazon issued this in reaction to Congressman Gregorio Andolana's proposal for a cease-fire among the government, the National Democratic Front, rebel soldiers, Muslim secessionists, and other violence-prone forces from 16 December to 6 January next year. Biazon said the military welcomes this call and is ready to suspend its counterinsurgency operations anytime. However, Biazon requested there should be a guarantee from the rebel groups to respect the cease-fire and suspend any attacks on the government. The acting chief of staff added that the rebel groups must identify their representatives for the cease-fire talks. General Biazon also cited several violations against previous cease-fires, particularly that which occurred after the 16 July killer quake. He mentioned that the armed forces have learned a lot from the past cease-fires and that there must now be clear-cut guidelines for the enforcement of another, to ensure that there would be no violation by any of the parties concerned. Here is General Biazon'a statement:

[Begin Biazon recording, in English] Once it is arranged, will the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] agree for a cease-fire? And if the CPP-NPA will agree to a cease-fire, who do we talk to? If we are able to talk to somebody, will they be in authority within the CPP-NPA leadership to impose a cease-fire among the, for example the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the Melito Glor command, and so on and so forth. In general, the New People's Army. Will they heed the call for cease-fire from the people in authority that we may have to talk with. Now, again as I said, I welcome the proposal of the legislators initiating a move for us to have a cease-fire. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Major General Rodolfo Biazon today confirmed the existence of a feud within the rebel soldiers' leadership following a reported reorganization. Based on intelligence reports received by the military, Biazon said there is a growing misunderstanding between the Young Officers Union [YOU] and the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] leadership about decisionmaking. The report also said the YOU group wants a long-term struggle, but the RAM group did not accede to this as it wants a short struggle or the speedy grab of power from the present administration, which could allegedly be done by launching another uprising or coup d'etat against the government. Another reason for the wrangling is allegedly the conspiracy between some ultrarightist leaders and communist rebels only to strengthen its forces for an immediate struggle. It is recalled that the rightist-communist alliance was confirmed by none other than renegade Major Abraham Purugganan and Alex Boncayao Brigade leader Nilo de la Cruz, in relation to an attempt to topple the Aquino government. Biazon said the ultrarightists' plan on this issue has not changed. [Biazon recording indistinct]

Thailand

Air Talks With U.S. Resume; Prospects Dim

BK2811075890 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Nov 90 pp A1, A2

[Text] Prospects are not looking good for Thailand and the United States to strike a new air transport agreement and even a resumption of negotiations is being called into question as both sides stick to the rigid stands they took after crucial talks broke down in Washington early this month.

As in most bilateral trade debates, the two countries want first to protect their own interests. In this case, the Thai side has complained that it was the party that has suffered, ever since a new Thai-US air transport agreement was signed in 1979.

Thailand has since been trying to propose a new agreement if attempts for amendment of that agreement could not provide what the country calls a fair deal. For a little over a decade, their efforts failed when little had been offered to satisfy the Thai side.

The reluctance on the US part to give as much as it wants to take, according [to] the Thai side, was a blunder. It enabled Thailand, which had been underestimated all along, to strengthen its bargaining position by simply issuing a notice to the United States that the agreement would be terminated in November last year. Termination eventually became effective on Nov 3 this year, when the two sides failed to find a mutually acceptable solution.

During the negotiations, both sides traded charges. Though their accusations fell short of charging the other party of conducting the talks in bad faith, what actually resulted was not far from an outright expression to that effect.

The United States and its airlines—four of which are operating flights to Thailand, stand to lose if they cannot provide service on the routes to Bangkok after next March.

The Thai side is in no hurry and is not eager to do so. In fact, it can simply say 'No', and things will remain as they are—there will be no bilateral air transport accord. But this is easier said than done. The Thai government is expected to sit down and listen to what new proposal Washington has this time around to make a fair deal materialize.

Commerce Official Reports on Visit to China

BK0412075590 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Deputy Commerce Minister Chia Kokphon reported on his visit to China from 29 November-2 December. He said the purpose of the visit was to get to know the Chinese commerce minister and his deputy and tour the Chinese economic and trade offices. His meeting with Chinese Commerce Minister Hu Ping resulted in agreement that the two countries could further expand economic and trade cooperation, especially in commerce and investment. To rectify the Thai trade deficit, he proposed that China buy more Thai goods, such as natural rubber, rice, and sugar. He said the Chinese deputy commerce minister is ready to visit Thailand early next year to discuss the expansion of trade and investment. A senior Chinese official will visit this month to explore joint investment possibilities.

Chia said that during the visit he negotiated the purchase of 100,000-150,000 tons of Chinese cement. A total of 128,500 tons of Chinese cement will be delivered to Thailand in December.

First Port Call by PRC Warship in 40 Years

BK0412042790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Dec 90 p A3

[Text] A Chinese warship with some 280 naval personnel is scheduled to arrive at Bangkok Port on Monday for a one-week visit to Thailand as guest of the Royal Thai Navy, a diplomatic source said yesterday. The official visit by the Zheng He [as published] warship is the first by a Chinese exercise warship to Southeast Asia in 40 years.

In a related development, the chief of staff of the Chinese Supreme Command, General Chi Haotian, is in town for an official visit as guest of Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong. An informed source said Gen Chi Haotian arrived in Bangkok on Sunday. The Chinese general made two official visits to Thailand last year, according to the source.

'Fierce Fighting' Closes Thai-Cambodian Border

BK0412012790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] Aranyaprathet—Due to fierce fighting near the Thai-Cambodian border Thai military forces stationed here prohibited passengers on about 20 buses from crossing to the black markets inside Cambodia on Sunday.

Only Aranyaprathet identification card holders were allowed to cross the border to the black market while residents of other districts had to wait on the Thai side.

Fighting began at 1.30 p.m. on Sunday and continued throughout yesterday morning. Sounds of fighting could clearly be heard in this border district which was periodically shaken by heavy shelling only a few kilometres away.

A military source said the fighting, which lasted for almost 24 hours, was the heaviest in the recent past, as forces from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and the Khmer Rouge separately attacked Heng Samrin bases near strategic Highway 5 from the north and south.

He said it was not clear whether the attacks had been coordinated as 100 soldiers from KPNLF's Zone Operations 2 under Maj-Gen [Major-General] Duong Sakhon attacked three Heng Samrin bases in Kok Sar, Sophi, and Kon Trei villages at around 1.30 p.m. and some 50 to 70 guerrillas from the Khmer Rouge's 108th Regiment under Maj-Gen Sok Thiep attacked Dang Prey village at around 3 p.m.

The three villagers attacked by KPNLF forces are situated north of strategic Highway 5 and south of Route 59, or some 15 kilometres from here, while Ban Song Aran is situated south of Highway 5, or 10 km from here.

A Burapa officer said the fighting did not affect villagers along the border as it was aimed at cutting Heng Samrin's economic lifeline between Battambang and Poi Pet.

He said the population of Khmer residents near the black market in Poi Pet, some 15 km southeast of the Thai border village of Kok Sabang village, had swelled to over 35,000 people.

The officer predicted that if the peace talks scheduled to be held in Paris this month did not produce any result, the fighting along the border would intensify.

He said each Khmer faction had been accumulating weapons and ammunition since the last dry season which saw limited fighting due the frequent meetings organised by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

Meanwhile, fighting erupted inside Cambodia opposite Ta Phraya District last night as Phnom Penh troops attacked the headquarters of the Khmer People's National Liberation Army at Bung Ta Kuan village.

The Heng Samrin soldiers were supported by artillery and mortar fire from Svay Chek on Route 69. Some of the shells landed near the Thai border at Ban Khon Ma Kok, about 3 km north of Ta Phraya, but inflicted no casualties.

Official Calls For Change in Policy Toward Burma

BK3011030790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 7

[Text] Thailand should reconsider its policy towards Burma, taking into account the long-term interests in relations instead of immediate gains, MP Sutham Saengprathum said yesterday.

As chairman of the Sub-committee on Human Rights of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr Sutham yesterday delivered to the Burmese Embassy a letter calling for the military junta to respect human rights and the people's mandate expressed in the May general elections.

Burmese Ambassador Nyunt Swe was not at the embassy to receive the letter, which expressed deep concern over rampant violations of human rights in Burma such as the reported arrests, imprisonment, torture and killing of people who call for democratic rights.

The MP urged the military rulers of Burma to cease any action that violates the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. He called for unconditional, immediate release of jailed politicians, students, journalists and monks, and also demanded that the junta transfer executive power to the people's representatives elected in the military-organised polls in May this year.

Mr Sutham pointed to a draft resolution to be voted on in the UN General Assembly as indicating how the world community is concerned with the worsening situation in Burma. Proposed by Sweden and co-sponsored by 20 other countries, the draft is expected to be put to a vote on December 18.

The former student activist said Thailand, if it wanted to be a good friend of Burma, should help convince Rangoon to see the truth. "We also would like the Thai Government to reconsider its position, taking into account interests in the long run," he added.

Army Opposes Camps for Burmese Refugees

BK3011024990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] The Army is not in favour of the government's plan to set up a holding centre for Burmese illegal immigrants in Thailand, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Director-General of the Supreme Command's Information Office Lt Gen Narudon Detpradiyut told a press conference that Thailand should not bear the burden because they were not refugees but illegal immigrants who used Thai soil for political activities against the military junta in Rangoon.

Earlier this month the National Security Council (NSC) called for an urgent inter-governmental meeting to seek measures to stop the political activities of Burmese students in Thailand. This followed two plane hijackings engineered by Burmese students, the latest being that of a Thai International Rangoon-bound flight to Calcutta by two Burmese students.

The hijackers commandeered the planes simply to call the world's attention to the political repression and human right abuses inside Burma.

Narudon also warned certain groups of Thais to stop assisting illegal Burmese otherwise they would face legal action.

Narudon said there were about 1,000 Burmese including 53 monks living illegally in Bangkok particularly in the Pratunam and Suthisan and on the outskirts including Minburi, Lakrabang areas.

Border Closure Affects Trade With Burma

BK0212041190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—Cross-border trade at this border town has been affected seriously with Rangoon authorities closing the border again after eight Burmese were injured in a bomb explosion in Myawadi last Wednesday [28 November].

Ekkasit Ratsamisetthi, a member of the Tak Chamber of Commerce, said the volume of daily trade between Mae Sot and Myawadi has dropped from 10 million baht to only one million baht. He said Burmese authorities did not give any reason for the continued border closure. They said only that they were waiting for the results of the investigation of the incident.

He said Thai and Burmese authorities should meet over the incident as soon as possible.

Pol Capt Sanguan Khanthairat, Mae Sot immigration police deputy chief, said the number of visitors from the Burmese side of the Moei River had also dropped. "Only 50 to 60 Burmese people came yesterday. Usually about 300 Burmese came over every day," he said.

He said only Burmese patients seeking medical treatment at Mae Sot Hospital were allowed to cross the border.

Meanwhile, a Thai security source said Burmese security officials had arrested about 20 suspects in connection with the explosion.

UNHCR Asked To Cut Aid to Burmese Exiles

BK0412015990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] The Interior Ministry has asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to cut its aid to dissident Burmese students and monks living in Thailand.

Permanent Interior Secretary for security Chamnan Photchana said the monthly allowances of 3,000 baht for students and 2,000 baht for monks are too high. With the excess money, the Burmese might conduct political activities or buy weapons to use against the Rangoon government.

The UNHCR allowances are drawing more Burmese dissidents to Thailand, he said, as shown by the increase in the number of students and monks receiving UNHCR aid from 400 to more than 2,000.

He accused the UNHCR of refusing to give the ministry a list of Burmese students living in Thailand. Instead, the agency gave the list to the Foreign Ministry, he said, and the Interior Ministry had to ask the Foreign Ministry for the list. The list was needed so that the Burmese would not be arrested and deported during a campaign to arrest illegal immigrants, he said.

Mr Chamnan said a holding centre for Burmese dissidents should be sited in Paktho District in Rat Buri Province because it is farther from the Burmese border than Suan Phung District in Rat Buri or Mae Sot District in Tak.

An old Border Patrol Police camp could be used, he said. Those held at the centre would be considered temporary immigrants, he added, and their children born in Thailand might get Thai nationality.

Supreme Command Reports Situation at Borders

BK3011025690 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Narudon Detpradiyut, director of the Information Office of the Supreme Command Headquarters, told reporters about the situation at the Thai-Malaysian border where terrorists have currently focused their target of operations on teachers. Realizing this, the Supreme Command Headquarters, therefore, dispatched its military units to various areas in the South to protect teachers and prevent undesirable incidents.

During their operations, military forces have so far seized 13 temporary shelters of the terrorists, their 87 pieces of explosives, and a great amount of weapons and equipment in Yala and Narathiwat Provinces. However, during the same period, the terrorists continued to send letters to threaten people and demand things from them, to seek food supplies, and to gather information in various areas.

Touching on the Thai-Burmese border situation, there still are a number of Burmese who illegally fled into Thailand, and the Interior Ministry has already announced measures to deal with the issue. For damages caused by a Burmese intrusion in 1989 to the Thai people, Thailand has in advance spent a budget of 19 million baht to compensate for the damages.

The Supreme Command spokesman also reported that the situation in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea was mostly normal, except for continued illegal entry into Thailand by Vietnamese boat people. In Trat Province, 317 Vietnamese boat people and four Cambodians were arrested for illegal entry.

Six Vietnamese 'Boat People' Land in Songkhla

BK2811024790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Songkhla—Six Vietnamese boat people landed yesterday in Muang District of this southern province after leaving a Vietnamese coastal town five days ago.

The Vietnamese, two men and four women, arrived on a small fishing boat at Laem Son On near the Shrine of Kromluang Chumphon Khetudomsak. They were taken to a temporary holding centre at the provincial defence volunteers headquarters by officials of the United Nations' High Commission for Refugees.

Fisheries Industry Deals Signed With SRV

BK2811040790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Nov 90 p 26

[Text] Thailand and Vietnam have formally agreed to jointly develop the fisheries industry to further strengthen bilateral relations.

Fishery Department Director-General Plotprasop Suratsawadi said the agreement was signed following a visit to Vietnam on November 21-25 by a team of senior fishery officials. Mr Plotprasop said the Vietnamese delegation was headed by Deputy Fisheries Minister Huynh Cong Hoa.

The two countries agreed to cooperate for 20 years in developing the fishing, shipyard, cold storage, processing, fishmeal, canning and aquaculture industries.

Two companies, Thai-Vietnam Fisheries Co of Thailand and South-West Fisheries Exploitation and Services Co of Vietnam, will be formed to liaise on the development of the different areas of cooperation, he said.

The companies will also establish joint venture undertakings in the different fields.

Mr Plotprasop said a joint fishing and logistic services company would be established first comprising a fleet of 100-150 vessels able to handle at least 50,000 tons of marine products annualy.

The cooperation period will start from the time the formation of the joint venture company is ratified by the Vietnamese Council of Ministers and receives an operating licence from its State Committee for Cooperation and Investment.

He said it had been agreed in principle that each party contribute 50 percent of the company's capital and that the cooperation and investment be carried out stage by stage in line with the requirements of the developing Vietnamese fisheries industry and the capacity of each party.

Mr Plotprasop said the Fishery Department would call a meeting of fishing companies later this month to discuss the establishment of Thai-Vietnam Fisheries Co.

Foreign Minister To Visit Vietnam in Late Dec

BK0412034390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Dec 90 p A3

[By Atthawibun Sisuworanan]

[Text] Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan is scheduled to visit Vietnam for three days late this month to lay the groundwork for the proposed Thai-Vietnamese summit due in January, sources told THE NATION yesterday.

Subin is tentatively expected to make his visit to the socialist country between Dec 24-26. The schedule has been forwarded to Hanoi and confirmation is being awaited, said the sources.

The visit follows an invitation from Subin's Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Co Thach, offered to the Thai leader during his visit here in late October.

Sakthip Krairoek, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman, confirmed Subin's scheduled visit to Vietnam, saying that both sides agreed that the visit should be sometime between Dec 22-28.

The sources said Subin is to meet Thach in Hanoi to discuss ways to forge close cooperation between the two countries, particularly to speed up the formation of a Thai-Vietnamese Joint Commission [JC] which has already been agreed upon.

The summit between Chatchai and Do Muoi is expected to strive for bilateral cooperation in trade and economic cooperation, which the soures said would mark a new milestone in bilateral ties.

"If Vietnam agrees to Subin's proposal on the JC, Premier Chatchai (Chunhawan) and (Vietnamese Prime minister) Do Muoi, would witness the signing of the agreements when they meet in Chiang Mai in January," said a source.

The joint commission, which would be responsible for the promotion of trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation, would help push bilateral ties to a new threshold, said the sources.

An urgent task for the joint commission is to push for the realization of a proposed scheme for joint cooperation in oil and gas exploitation.

Last week, Thailand and Vietnam agreed to form a special committee to investigate offshore petroleum exploration.

Four Sites Proposed for New Soviet Embassy

BK0112033990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Dec 90 p A5

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Thailand will propose next week four sites for the establishment of a new Soviet mission in Bangkok to replace the one on Sathon Road which has become too congested.

The move came under a bilateral agreement reached early this year between Thailand and the Soviet Union to exchange land in their respective capitals for the setting up of their permanent missions. Both countries have been renting the properties for their present embassies.

Kasit Phirom, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations, told The Nation that the Foreign Ministry will accompany Soviet officials next week to inspect four possible sites which are located around Chaeng Watthana, Kasetsat University, Rama IX and Sukhumwit areas.

The land in those areas belongs to the the Crown Property Bureau, the Finance Ministry's Treasury Deparment and the State Railways of Thailand, he said.

Both countries are to decide and inform each other within January the new location of their missions. They agreed last April to "exchange" one-hectare of land each in Moscow and Bangkok for the setting up of their embassies.

Moscow considers two other sites around Sun Witchai and Pinklao Road proposed previously by Thailand too far from downtown and could possibly be affected by elevated road project. Bangkok, meanwhile, considers the Soviet offer as too far away from the centre of Moscow, according to Kasit. He, however, said Thai officials will revisit the site before a decision is made.

The director-general said if the Foreign Ministry is satisfied with the Soviet proposal it will report and submit a draft agreement for the Cabinet's final approval before drawing up a construction and design contract.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Meets Counterpart

BK0412062890 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mr. Sakthip Krairoek today said that Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky held talks with the Thai foreign minister on strengthening bilateral, political, cultural, and economic relations. Mr. Subin, according to Mr. Sakthip, has asked the Hungarian foreign minister to speed up the scheduled date of Thai-Hungarian joint committee [as heard] in order that the two countries can now realistically work on expanding trade and investment. In the meantime, the Hungarian foreign minister asked the Thai foreign minister to consider visa exemption for Hungarian diplomats and officials, which the Thai side accepted these proposals for consideration.

Mr. Sakthip said Mr. Jeszenszky will address speech on the situation in eastern and central European regions and the change of the system in Hungary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 4 December. Mr. Jeszenszky arrived in Bangkok yesterday for a four-day official visit as guest of the Thai Foreign Ministry.

Purchase of German Helicopter Carrier Endorsed

BK0112110490 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] The cabinet yesterday endorsed the Defense Ministry's proposal to purchase a helicopter carrier worth 5.2 billion baht from Germany without going through a bidding process.

General Wanchai Ruangtrakun, permanent secretary of the Defense Ministry, proposed the project to the cabinet, saying the carrier was necessary to assist along Thailand's coasts at times of natural disasters and to safeguard against any possible foreign attack.

Under the contract with the German manufacturer, payments for the carrier would be made over the period from fiscal year 1990 to 1993.

Thai-Nepalese Team To Hold First Meeting

BK3011050190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 7

[Text] Thailand next week will host the first meeting of the Thai-Nepalese Joint Committee, aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of economics, science, education, and exchange of information and experience.

Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi and his Nepalese counterpart N.B. Shah will lead their delegations to the December 6-8 meeting. The joint committee was established in May 1989.

Thailand and Nepal established diplomatic relations in 1959 and began exchanging envoys at ambassadorial level in 1980. Trade volume between the two countries between January and June 1989 was 411.2 million baht.

Exports from Thailand, totalling 410.5 million baht during the six month-period, included textiles, ready-made clothes, sugar, cement, motorcycle spare parts, electrical appliances and tyres, while imports from Nepal, totalling 700,000 baht, included handicrafts, paper and film.

With the establishment of the joint committee last year, Thailand has provided scholarships to Nepalese nationals for study and training here under the Thai Aid Programme. It has also assisted Nepal jointly with other countries and international organisations through the Third Country Training Programme.

Thailand will also host the fourth meeting of the Thai-Bangladeshi Joint Committee meeting December 12-14 to discuss cooperation in trade, investment, fishery, maritime navigation, air transport and tourism.

Suspect in Murders of Saudi Diplomats Arrested

BK0412122590 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 1 Dec 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] According to a report from our correspondent in Satun Province, the police have arrested another suspect in the murder of three officials of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Bangkok in February this year.

Officials from the Southern Bangkok Metropolitan Police arrived in the province and, with cooperation from Chief of the Satun Provincial Police, Police Colonel Saman Ninlanon, arrested Wirot Mahamad on 28 November. Wirot was apprehended at a warehouse in La-Ngu District, Satun Province. He was brought to Bangkok the following day for further investigation to be conducted by the Investigation Branch of the Southern Bangkok Metropolitan Police.

Pol. Col. Saman Ninlanon said the arrest of Wirot was made at the request of the Bangkok police. The provincial police had no jurisdiction because the incident took place in Bangkok. The police in Satun only provided cooperation in tracking down the suspect.

According to our correspondent, a relative of Wirot made a phone call to Satun Governor Captain Khiangsak Thammaratcharak asking for justice for Wirot. Capt. Khiangsak told him that the police in Satun have no responsibility in handling the case.

Meanwhile, Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner Police Major General Thanu Homhuan said he had already received a report on the arrest of Wirot. He expected that the investigation would be completed on 1 December. It was jointly carried out by the central administrative authorities and the Southern Bangkok Police authorities.

Diplomatic Ties With Madagascar Established

BK3011035690 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Announcement by the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] Being desirous to promote the existing friendly relationship between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar have therefore agreed to officially establish diplomatic relations from 30 November 1990 onward. The two countries will further exchange their diplomatic representatives at the ambassadorial level.

Announced on 30 November 1990.
Signed by Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan.

Indonesia Releases Thai Fishermen After Jailing

BK3011025990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] Indonesia has released 48 Thai fishermen who were arrested for encroaching on its territorial waters, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said yesterday.

He said the Thai Embassy in Jakarta will soon send back the fishermen who have completed their undisclosed jail terms in Indonesia for the offence.

The spokesman added the fishermen were crew of four fishing boats—Nang Nuan, Phokhasathaphon 32, Simwanitsin 5, Sithawisak. Chokamnuai 12 and Thawilap 25. Sakthip asked owners of the four ships to contact the ministry immediately.

Thai, ASEAN Textile Groups Swap EC Quotas

BK3011044790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 17

[Text] The ASEAN Federation of Textile Industries (AFTEX) has succeeded in an attempt to swop export quotas to the European Community market among the federation's six member countries. The six textile federations of ASEAN agreed to the swops during their meeting in Jakarta last week, and are likely to implement them next year. This is expected to benefit Thai textile exporters.

An informed source in the Thai Textile Industry Federation told Business Post that in principle the ASEAN members will receive compensation fees when they transfer the export quotas to other countries.

Singapore is the most likely country to transfer its export quotas to other members because it has had a surplus over the past few years. Due to high production costs, Singapore's textile exports have been on the decline, especially in the EC market.

In other ASEAN countries, particularly Thailand and Indonesia, textile exports have been rapidly increasing, but these countries have encountered serious problems due to a lack of export quotas to the EC market.

The source said ASEAN and the EC had an agreement allowing swopping of export quotas among ASEAN members, but it had not been implemented in the past because the six member countries could not agree on the details of a swopping arrangement

Under the agreement, the EC will allow the swopping of export quotas for garments among ASEAN members at 10 percent of total quotas per year and five percent for fabric and yarn.

The source said the six members of AFTEX had also agreed to make a concerted effort to boost intra-ASEAN trade and help bolster local manufacturers.

ASEAN textile exports grew nine-fold between 1979 and 1989 to nine billion dollars, representing about five percent of the global export market, but without joint cooperation the industry may become depressed in the near future.

Party Official 'Foresees No Serious Problem'

BK3011134390 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Agriculture Minister Chuan Likphai, in his position as deputy leader of the Democrat Party, said he knows nothing about the report that Cabinet ministers belonging to his party have signed their resignations from the Cabinet or joined the campaign to convene a special session of parliament, adding that he did not know who was the source of the report. He said any action his party plans to take must first gain approval at the party meeting. The party meeting today will probably be a briefing for party members on various issues.

Chuan said the current political situation is not smooth and he feels that the situation involves matters more of a personal nature than political. One solution is for the people involved to hold talks with one another based on facts so they can understand each other better.

Asked about the Chat Thai Party, Chuan said that the party consists of several factions whose views on certain issues are not in agreement. But he added that he foresees no serious problem because the prime minister, who is the Chat Thai Party leader, can keep it under control.

Chuan said that from an outsider's view, such as from the people's vantage point, there may appear to be a conflict. But a deeper look will show that the conflict is of a more personal nature.

Chuan said the national administrators must create confidence in the people and must work together. If the people lose confidence and the policy changes frequently, the carrying out of duties could be disrupted. He added that he feels frequent Cabinet reshuffles will cause discontinuity and remarked that the current problem has nothing to do with a new Cabinet reshuffle.

Officers 'Avoid' Chatchai at Trooping of Color

BK0412033390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Dec 90 p A1

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan was apparently left out in the cold yesterday during the spectacular reviewing ceremony of a military parade to mark His Majesty the King's birthday.

Invited to participate in the ceremony at which Their Majesties the King and Queen reviewed the parade, Chatchai, attending in his capacity as defence minister, did not appear on TV during the broadcast over any of the TV channels.

This took place despite a published report that top military officers had accepted the premier's invitation to dine with him to patch up their differences over the premier's failure to drop controversial minister Chaloem Yubamrung from the Cabinet. The top brass did not confirm or deny the report.

Senior individuals who did appear on TV were former premier Gen Prem Tinsulanon and former army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut. Army-run Channel 5 handled live transmission for the TV pool programme.

The camera crew shot close-ups of other dignitaries invited to witness the military parade held at the Royal Plaza in front of Dusit Palace.

After the ceremony, Chatchai was seen talking seriously to Air Force Commander-in-Chief Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin for about 10 minutes. But the other top officers seemed [to] have shied away from him.

Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong paid routine respect during his brief encounter with Chatchai, while Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun hurriedly left the Royal Plaza as soon as the ceremony was over.

Sunthon left the premier and opted for talks with Industry Minister Pol Gen [Police General] Praman Adireksan and Education Minister Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan for quite a while.

Chawalit, now leader of the New Aspiration Party, did not exchange greetings with Chatchai, and instead socialized with several other senior army officers at the cremony.

Chatchai had reportedly approached the commanders-in-chief of the three armed forces for them to dine with him. According to sources close to the premier, the military leaders accepted the invitation.

Suchinda told reporters on Sunday that he would do anything the premier would order him to do. Chatchai's aides also said Sunthon would be approached yesterday but the supreme commander denied being invited. However, he said he would be willing to attend the dinner if the premier did so.

In his speech in response to the oath of allegiance by the military officers, His Majesty yesterday said apart from defending the country from outside aggression, the armed forces also have the duty of supporting national development and boosting the people's standard of living.

The two areas of responsibility are of equal importance, His Majesty said. He pointed out that if threats of war and poverty were eliminated, the country would be stable and the people would live in peace.

The military leaders' attempts to avoid the premier yesterday came as a "leaflet war" was escalating. The smear campaigns involve libelous attacks on Prime Minister Chatchai, his wife Thanphuying Bunruan, their son Kraisak Chunhawan and Army Commander-in-Chief Suchinda.

Underground leaflets containing accusations against the four were mailed to politicians and the press. Observers said little credit, if any, should be given to the leaflets whose anonymity and rude wording undermined their own credibility. But the leaflets presented one fact—that Thai politics is in a very unhealthy state.

The current leaflet campaign appeared to underscore the tension between the government and the military, but there is a high possibility that "third parties" are the real culprits, the observers said. Leaflets attacking the government did not mention the military, while those against the armed forces conspicously spared politicians.

Prime Minister Chatchai last week shrugged off the leaflets, which claimed that his family was falling apart.

Prime Minister Said Considering New Reshuffle

BK0412014790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Dec 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan supports the proposal for a major Cabinet reshuffle in which ministers whose integrity has been questioned by the public should be removed from their posts, Democrat Party secretary-general Sanan Kachonprasat said yesterday.

Maj-Gen [Major General] Sanan, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said he had discussed the current political situation with the Prime Minister recently and Gen Chatchai had shown support for a major reshuffle to win back public confidence.

The Deputy Prime Minister admitted that the Government's popularity was falling and the Prime Minister was trying to salvage the situation.

Asked what the scope of the reshuffle would be, Maj-Gen Sanan said his party wanted an "across-the-board" reshuffle where coalition partners might swap posts to correct any inefficiency. He said Gen Chatchai gave his approval to the proposal.

Maj-Gen Sanan said said the current situation was not beyond the ability of the Government to regain public trust and confidence.

"In politics there is nothing certain. It goes up and down and when you know that there is a shortcoming you have to dare to correct it. This will help improve the situation. I believe that the reshuffle this time would be a large-scale one to satisfy the public," Maj-Gen Sanan said.

He added that the new reshuffle might take place early next week or after next Friday when the Government will hold a garden party at Government House. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Urges End to Anonymous Leaflets

BK0412074990 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 Dec 90 p 22

[Text] Government Spokesman Suwit Yotmani said that the current political situation is uncertain. He said Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan told him during a meeting this morning that he was trying to solve problems, including economic and political ones, in order to please every sector as possible, as well as listening to public opinions. According to Suwit, the prime minister pledged to do this to make every sector feel better. The prime minister said that if too much attention was paid to conflicts, efforts to solve people's and the country's economic problems would be delayed.

Suwit said while the prime minister tries to create unity, leaflets are being circulated to attack the government and destroy unity. The government prefers that its critics do their work openly because in the democratic system everyone has a right to express his views. Such open expression is more constructive for unity than resorting to anonymous leaflets.

Parties Urged To Heed King's Call for Unity

BK0412013990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "King's advice can heal old wounds"]

[Text] His Majesty the King's advice on the need for national unity was a breath of fresh air in an otherwise cloudy political atmosphere. Addressing a group of village scouts and political and military leaders after the Royal Family's return to Bangkok from Sakon Nakhon on Sunday night, His Majesty urged all parties to unite and seek mutual understanding for the common good and to resolve conflicts through dialogue.

The advice could not come at a more opportune time. After weeks of simmering tension between Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and the military leadership before and after the limited-scale Cabinet reshuffle last month, the political atmosphere had thickened to a point of near-suffocation.

This is heardly conducive to Thailand's political system, or the business and investment climate. Indeed, since the current Government took over more than two years ago, at no point has the need for national reconciliation been more pronounced than now.

From one narrow perspective, the conflict between Gen Chatchai and the military leadership boils down to a question of "face" and "dignity." Controversial PM's [Prime Minister] Office Minister Chaloem Yubamrung invited the military's wrath by openly challenging Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong over the legality of the military seizure of the Government's mobile radio van. The irate military leadership then asked Gen Chatchai to sack Pol Capt [Police Captain] Chaloem for having bruised the military's dignity—a demand with which the prime minister had reprotedly promised to comply.

But in the end the reported promise was only met half-way. Instead of dismissing Pol Capt Chaloem, the prime minister chose to transfer him to a less significant Cabinet post.

Gen Chatchai's reasoning was clear: sacking Chaloem would portray the impression that his Government had succumbed to military pressures. The prime minister thought that the half-way solution should have been enough since Chaloem now could no longer use Government-controlled media, specifically TV Channel 9, to attack the military.

But the military was far from being satisfied. Upset by what they perceived to be the prime minister's unfulfilment of his gentleman's promise, the Armed Forces' top commanders boycotted the regular weekly breakfast meetings with Gen Chatchai. The questionable propriety behind Gen Chatchai's apparent defence of a controversial figure like Pol Capt Chaloem aside, it was clear which of the two conflicting sides was more conciliatory. The prime minister had gone half-way to appease the military demand, but the military leadership had wanted him to go the full way.

That the military leadership has been over-zealous in trying to protect the dignity of its institution is understandable, for honour and discipline are the cherished values of the uniformed men. But they could do themselves and the public a service by blending adherence of honour with logic and reason. Alongside the broadening of pluralism in Thai society, the military as a whole is generally perceived to have grown more mature.

A mature attitude coupled with a willingness to compromise could go a long way to dispelling the current atmosphere of confusion and acrimony. The Government could then turn its attention on addressing other pressing and important state affairs.

Fallout from these weeks of political tension has sapped the public's morale and investors' confidence. The prime minister has taken his fair share of public criticism for risking to ruin the system by his defence of just one controversial minister. Some would argue that his failure to live up to promises did not improve his own image—a case of if promises could not be met they should not have been made in the first place. All this suggests he will have to be more cautious and consistent next time round.

Papers View Idea of Making Voting Compulsory

BK3011094890

[Editorial Report] The 30 November issues of the Thai dailies SIAM RAT and THAI RAT carry items commenting on Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan's idea of making election voting compulsory in order to discourage vote buying.

The 400-word page-8 MATICHON editorial, titled: "Sealing Off The Point Which Threatens Death of Democracy," says: "Vote buying is a weak spot which has been highlighted to criticize Thai democracy. This weak point could destroy democracy in our country. For this reason, it would be praiseworthy for members of parliament to try to resolve it." The editorial adds that the prime minister's idea of making voting compulsory would "make vote buying difficult if the election turnout is 100 percent," concluding that "if it is necessary to enact a law to prevent voters from not exercising their voting rights, then it should be done because doing so would eliminate a weak point in Thai democracy."

In an 800-word "Soi Suanphlu Column" published on page 9 of SIAM RAT, Khukrit Pramot disagrees with the prime minister's idea of making voting compulsory, saying: "Forcing people to exercise their voting rights amounts to depriving them of their rights," adding that to take away such rights would be undemocratic.

Khukrit concludes: "To make voting compulsory will require a constitutional amendment. There are other parts of the Constitution that are unsatisfactory. Now that the prime minister wants to amend the Constitution to force people to exercise their voting rights, he should use the opportunity to amend other parts of the Constitution that are weak. It is not good to amend the Constitution frequently because the Constitution loses its sacred value as a result."

Army Chief Against Amendments

BK0312030790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Army Chief Gen [General] Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday he did not agree with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's proposed constitutional amendments which, among other things, would make voting compulsory.

The general said he did not think the proposed amendments would help solve any problem. Whether corruption or vote-buying could be solved or not depended on the sincerity of politicians rather than constitutional changes, he said after presiding over a charity walk.

Gen Suchinda said the problems lay with politicians, not the constitution. If the politicians were sincere, there would be no problem, he added.

The Chat Thai Party has already set up a special committee headed by Justice Minister Chamrat Mangkalarat to consider constitutional amendments.

The proposal calls for compulsory voting; lowering the age of eligible voters from 20 to 18; increasing the number of parliamentary sessions to twice a year; appointing more ombudsmen in Parliament to monitor officials in the administrative, legislative and judicial branches to prevent corruption; and giving more authority to local governments in budgetary management.

Asked to comment on the proposed amendments as a senator, Gen Suchinda said though he did not agree with the proposal he had no influence over other senators and could not make them agree or disagre with it.

"The Army Chief has no right to order senators who are military officers to do as he wants.

"Unlike political parties which can order their MPs [members of Parliament] to do what they want, the Senate is not a political party. So senators cannot be given orders," he said.

When it was suggested to him that the Internal Security Operations Command [ISOC] was once strongly in favour of a constitutional change, the general who is also its deputy director said the ISOC under his command no longer had such an idea.

Suchinda: Army Can Protect Teachers in South

BK3011030990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday said the Fourth Region Army is capable of acting against southern bandits who are threatening the security of teachers and people in the region.

Interviewed by reporters at the Army Auditorium about the situation in the South, Gen Suchinda said Fourth Region Army Commander Lt Gen Yutthana Yaemphan told him recently that his force can handle violent crimes in the region.

The army chief said a series of bomb explosions over the past two weeks in Pattani and Narathiwat were merely threats from bandits who wanted to be a nuisance to the authorities.

"If the Fourth Region Army officers cannot handle violent crimes they could ask for reinforcements from central military bases," he added.

Asked to comment on a recent incident in which Cambodian soldiers robbed Thai villagers along the border areas, Suchinda said military officers have kept a close eye on the matter and that he has instructed authorities in the localities to prevent a repetition of the incident.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said local administrative officials in cooperation with the Fourth Army Region have stepped up security measures to provide protection to teachers and people in the lower South.

A group of some 400 primary-school teachers from Hua Sai District gathered outside district hall on Wednesday demanding that police arrest, within three days, the murderer of a school principal who was robbed and killed two weeks ago.

Banhan said authorities have to negotiate with the protesting teachers if local police could not make the arrest within the three-day deadline they had set. "Police themselves want to arrest the principal's killer as soon as possible," he added.

The minister also said the bandits who clashed with security officials in Narathiwat on Wednesday were "those who want to instigate unrest in the region."

Army Official on Security Situation in South

BK0412074090 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 4 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] According to Fourth Army Region Commander Lieutenant Yutthana Yaemphan, the current harassment campaign by the terrorist bandit movements in the south is aimed at showing that they still have influence in the region. Their activities resemble that of ordinary criminal gangs; they are not based on political or cultural conditions. Clashes with government officials decreased lately and took place near their hiding places in jungles and mountains.

Yutthana said that last week his men, representatives of the Malayan Communist Party, and Malaysian Government officials jointly cleared landmines remaining in the field. He said land is being set aside for members of the party who wish to remain in Thailand. Those who want to return to Malaysia will also receive assistance.

Yutthana said activities of the remnants of the Communist Party of Thailand no longer pose a threat to national security, as they have not clashed with government forces for some time. Those who remain at large are former criminals who could not surrender due to fear of prosecution. Two or three such groups continue to operate in the border areas of Surat Thani, Krabi, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phatthalung, Trang, and Satun Provinces.

Panel To Charge Protest, Immolation Instigators

BK0212041090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] A police panel investigating the student rally at Ramkhamhaeng University says it has collected enough evidence to charge former Communist Party of Thailand defector Prasoet Sapsunthon and seven other people with instigating unrest that led to the self-immolation of a student protester on October 14.

Central Investigatiion Bureau Deputy Commissioner Pol [Police] Maj-Gen Kasem Saengmit, who heads the investigation panel, said a report on the committee's findings is expected to be sent to the Public Prosecution Department tomorrow for further action.

The rally at Bamkhamhaeng took place from October 1 to 30 during which student Thanawuth Khlingchau set himself on fire and later died of serious burns. The Police Department set up the committee on October 11 to investigate the matter.

The investigation report was submitted to the Police Department last Monday and the Legal Affairs Division agreed that was sufficient eividence to file a lawsuit against Mr Prasoet and seven others on charges of inciting unrest.

Apart from Mr Prasoet, others in the case are Saman Si-ngam, Somkiat Limprasithiwong, Nikom Keson, Chua Sae An, Sunthon Khongchu, Somkiat Phetariyawong and Chaiyong Rattanawan.

Some of them have been on trial on a charge of distributing leaflets in June last year demanding the abolition of the Constitution and others on a charge of inciting unrest at Sanam Luang in March this year.

Bank Governor: Currency Devaluation Unnecessary

BK2911025390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Nov 90 p 17

[Excerpt] Bank of Thailand Governor Wichit Suphinit said yesterday the baht exchange rate did not need changing.

Mr Wichit Suphinit said the Exchange Equalisation Fund (EEF)'s monthly meeting yesterday had assessed all major currencies and decided the present basket formula should be maintained. "There is no need to make any change as the baht is in a good position," he said.

Although the baht has appreciated against the US dollar, it has fallen against other currencies such as the yen, mark and pound.

The baht has strengthened 2.6 percent against the dollar since the beginning of the year, but has weakened 16 percent against the pound and around 15 percent against the yen, mark and Swiss franc.

Mr Wichit said the country's official reserves were very high at around US$14.2 billion or roughly 5.7 b onths worth of imports.

The reserves are expected to reach $16 billion by the end of the year or equivalent to six months worth of imports. He said this healthy position and continued export strength made a devaluation unnecessary.

The EEF has nearly $200 million of the reserve with Thai bank branches overseas and around $1,000 million with foreign banks, mostly in Europe. The EEF will try next year to place more reserves with Thai bank branches overseas in an effort to increase the competitiveness of Thai banks with foreign banks in providing syndicated loans. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Guidance Given for Public Views on Party Platform

BK0112134790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Public views on the following major issues are requested:

For Chapter One entitled "The Great Victory and the Lessons of the Vietnamese Revolution," it is necessary to pay attention to the following two points:

1. Although the party's general line has charted correct objectives and orientations for socialist construction, our party has made mistakes in strategic leadership and in determining specific lines for certain important areas. Is this observation accurate?

2. Are those lessons of experience cited in the draft platform adequate, and are they arranged in an orderly faahion? What matters should be added or removed from each of these lessons of experience?

Chapter Two entitled "The Transition to Socialism in Our Country," has a lot of important content. Public suggestions are invited on the following:

1. The basic issues of our time: In spite of the complex changing international situation, the draft platform continues to assert the basic issues of our time, namely the transition from capitalism to socialism on an international scale. This transition is a long historic period and is taking place viciously and in a complicated manner at many levels and under various forms amidst a tough and decisive class struggle.

2. The inevitability of the transition to socialism in our country: Does the socialist path of our choice comform to the law of development? Faced with the difficult and favorable conditions currently, can we advance to socialism?

3. Concepts of socialism built by our people: Are the five major points cited in the draft platform acceptable? Are there any points to be added or removed?

4. The basic differences of our society in the transitional period: There are many different concepts about basic differences. Differences in the draft platform are discussed in an acceptable way. Are there any differing views?

5. Fundamental principles for socialist construction in the transitional period: Are the five principles pointed out in the draft platform acceptable? Are there any principles to be added or removed?

6. The goal of the initial stage—Chapter Three entitled "Socioeconomic Development": As the draft platform points to a system of concepts on economic, social, cultural, scientific, and educational policies, we must, depending on the area of activity of each unit, select problems for intense discussion. On the economy, public views are sought on concepts about the commodity-based economy, the relationship between planning and market, the multisectoral economic structure, economic relations with other countries; on whether manpower is regarded as a means of marketing and to what extent will private capitalism and the bourgeoisie continue to exist; on land ownership and the right to land use; and on the transformation of various social classes and stratas in the transitional period. Other specific contents can be discussed later when we are studying the draft strategy for our country's socioeconomic stabilization and development until the year 2000.

As for Chapter Four entitled "National Defense and Security and Foreign Relations Policy," the platforms of many parties do not mention these subjects; however, given our country's situation, they must be covered in our platform. The draft platform points to some concepts about position, goals, orientations, and the fundamentally principled tasks for each area of activity. More specific issues, though no less important, will be presented in other party and state document. While making suggestions, attention must be paid to this limitation.

Regarding Chapter Five entitled "Political System," public suggestions are invited on these major issues: the party's role in the political system and the party's leadership procedures, especially relations between the party and state. As the draft platform has raised a number of principled guidelines, in discussions we can consult organizations in our localities and units, and from this we can petition amendments to the draft platform.

On Chapter Six entitled "The Communist Party of Vietnam in the Cause of Socialist Construction," suggestions are invited on the following two major issues:

1. The class nature of the party: Whose interest does the party represent?

2. The contents for the renovation of the party.

Leaders Extend National Day Greeting to Laos

BK3011155890 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 30—Vietnamese leaders have extended warmest greetings to their Lao counterparts on the 15th National Day of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (December 2).

The joint message was sent by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly, to Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]: Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR and Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the People's Supreme Assembly of the LPDR.

It says:'the Lao People's Democratic Republic has stood firm against sabotage schemes and activities conducted by reactionary forces inside and outside the country with unceasingly boosting economic and cultural development and raising its people's living standard. It prestige has been constantly enhanced in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.

'The party, government and people of Vietnam are resolved to do all they can to develop the traditional friendship and solidarity between the two countries and raise the efficiency of their economic, cultural and scientific and technical cooperation on the basis of mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and equality and of mutual benefit and assistance.'

Vo Chi Cong-Led Delegation Leaves for Laos

BK0112034890 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 30—A delegation of the Vietnamese state and party led by Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the State Council of the Vietnamese Government, left here today for Vientiane to attend celebrations of the 15th National Day of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR).

The delegation includes Nguyen Co Thach, Politburo member of the CPV Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister for foreign affairs, and Sen. Lt. General Dao Dinh Luyen, member of the CPV Central Committee and vice minister of national defence.

The delegation was seen off at the presidential palace by Do Muoi, Politburo member of the party Central Committee, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Le Duc Anh, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and Minister of National Defence; and Nguyen Duc Tam and Nguyen Thanh Binh, Politburo members and secretaries of the party Central Committee. The Vietnamese delegation was welcomed at Wattay Airport in Vientiane by Phoumi Vongvichit, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP), and acting President of the LDPR Phoun Sipaseut, Politburo member of the LPRP Central Commiittee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs, and other senior party and state officials.

A large number of the representatives of the Vientiane population were present at the airport to greet the Vietnamese guests.

VNA Interviews Lao Premier Kaysone Phomvihan

BK0412080790 Hanoi VNA in English 0730 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 4—Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers on November 29 granted an interview in Vientiane to VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY and Vietnam Television on the occasion of the 15th National Day of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (December 2).

General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan said: "The victory of the December 2, 1975 general uprising which toppled the neocolonialist and feudalist administration brought basic and profound changes to the destiny of the Lao people and society. From the status of slaves, the Lao people have become masters of their country, life and future. From a partitioned colonial and feudal country Laos has become a sovereign, independent, democratic and unified country.

"The Lao people's victory together with the victories of the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples in 1975 had a profound epochal significance, heralding the collapse of neocolonialism on the world scale, strongly encouraging the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress."

Referring to Laos's socioeconomic situation, Kaysone Phomvihan said over the past 15 years, especially in the last few years, Laos's economy and culture have made a new and significant step of development. Gross national output increased by over three times in the past 15 years and per capita income by six percent yearly on an average. Rice productivity and the number of cattle increased by 2.3 and 2 times respectively. Electric output rose by 3.7 times. The Lao party and government, he said, have taken the country into a timely and comprehensive renovation. Renovation is now implemented in the whole country and in all fields, first of all, economic renovation which is considered the motive force. At the same time Laos is also undertaking political renovation, step by step.

On the immediate economic tasks, he said:

"First, we have to build a new economic management mechanism, abolish throughly the bureaucratic mechanism of management based on central subsidies. We are promoting the initiative and creativeness of the people, and the capabilities of various economic sectors. We also take advantage of the cooperation, investment and assistance of foreign countries and bring into play the strengths of each economic region and the potentials and resources of the country. We pay special attention to training scientific and technological workers. We uphold the spirit of self-reliance and at the same time make full use of the assistance and cooperation of international organizations and foreign countries. We focus our efforts on developing the productive forces, on gradually changing to a commodity economy from a natural economy and improving the people's living conditions while increasing accumulation for stable development."

On the Laos-Vietnam relations, Kaysone Phomvihan said:

"The cooperation and assistance between the two fraternal countries over the past 15 years has taken place in the context of great difficulties encountered by each country. In the first years after liberation, we met many difficulties caused by the enemy's blockade and sabotage, and natural calamities. But Vietnam came to our help before anyone else did, just as a Vietnamese proverb says, "A mouthful in time of hunger is worth more than a package when the stomach is full."

He went on:

"On the basis of consolidating and developing the special, all-sided and traditional friendship and solidarity between the two parties, governments and peoples we shall promote the effectiveness and quality of the cooperation in the spirit of mutual assistance, brotherhood, equality and mutual benefit, thus contributing to peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia."

KPL Cited on Indochina Summit Meet in Vientiane

BK0412081190 Hanoi VNA in English 0712 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 4—The party and state leaders of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam met in Vientiane on December 3, KPL reports.

The Lao side was headed by Kaysone Phnomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party

Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; the Cambodian side by Mr. Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council of the State of Cambodia; and the Vietnamese delegation by Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the State Council.

At their meeting, the top leaders of the three countries exchanged views on the relations between Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam as well as international and regional issues of mutual concern. The Lao and Vietnamese sides voiced their strong support for the correct and just stance and efforts of goodwill of the Cambodian Government in settling the Cambodian issue by peaceful means compatible with the reality in Cambodia and on the basis of national reconciliation and respect for Cambodia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Cuban News Agency Interviews Chairman Do Muoi

BK0212162290 Hanoi VNA in English 1519 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 2—"The durability of the militant solidarity and fraternal friendship between Vietnam and Cuba have stood the test of time and is an exemplary relationship treasured by the people of both countries."

Thus stated Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, in an interview with the Cuban News Agency PRENSA LATINA on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Cuba (December 2).

Chairman Do Muoi said:

"Over the past 30 years, many important events have taken place in our bilateral relations. Who can forget that Cuba was the first country in the world to recognize the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, and President Fidel Castro was the first head of state of a foreign country to visit the liberated zone in South Vietnam while the war was raging? Who can forget the heartfelt feelings of President Ho Chi Minh for the wonderful revolution in Cuba? Who can forget the immortal words "For Vietnam, we are ready to give even our blood" by Fidel Castro, the esteemed leader of the Cuban people and a great friend of the Vietnamese people? The Vietnam-Cuban Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation (signed in 1982) and the Cuba visits by Nguyen Van Linh, Truong Chinh and Pham Van Dong are big contributions to the consolidation and enhancement of the solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the two countries."

Do Muoi condemned the present campaigns of sabotage, and subversion and aggressive schemes of the United States against Cuba, saying that they are immoral and contrary to the trend in international relations and are doomed to failure.

Vo Nguyen Giap Attends Conference on Science

BK3011115790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] On 27 and 28 November, Hanoi Municipality held a conference to review the results of scientific and technological work in the five years from 1986 to 1990. Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended the conference.

Over the past five years, science and technology have been one of the effective measures enabling various economic establishments to overcome difficulties, check the downturn of production and trading activities, and increase output in some areas. A total of 174 central organs, including colleges and research institutes, have worked in coordination with various sectors in Hanoi to apply technical advances in production and daily life. Hanoi has conducted 1,051 scientific and technological research and development projects, verified the results of 693 research projects, and accepted for application 554 projects.

Generally speaking, application and technological advances have made important contributions to production and product diversification. They have also helped create many new products and new crop varieties of high value.

Diplomatic Relations Established With EEC

BK0312152990 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 3—The Vietnamese Government has received an official note from the European Economic Community (EEC) on its decision to establish diplomatic relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The decision was made at the October 22 meeting of EEC's foreign ministers in Luxembourg, Belgium.

23 Boat People Arrive in Hanoi Under New Scheme

BK0212104890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1656 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 1 (AFP)—The first group of 23 Vietnamese boat people "not opposed" to repatriation arrived here Saturday with 83 voluntary returnees from Hong Kong refugee camps, witnesses at the international airport here said.

The 23—classed as "not opposed to returning home" by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—arrived on a chartered Dragon Air flight with 83 Vietnamese who were the 42nd group to return voluntarily.

A UNHCR official said the 23 did not go through normal immigration channels with the other boat people, but were put in a Vietnamese airlines bus to undergo different procedures.

The non-voluntary returnees were taken to Dong Ngac Camp in a northern suburb of Hanoi where they would stay for two or three days before rejoining their families, he said.

The official said 18 of the non-voluntary returnees were from Haiphong, 150 kilometres (93 miles) east of here, two were from Ho Chi Minh City in the south, two were from Hanoi and the other was from southern Vietnam.

The 83 voluntary returnees went to the Soc Son Camp about 10 kilometres (six miles) north of the airport and would rejoin their families in two to three days, the official said.

The Interior Ministry's immigration director, Nguyen Can, who was at the airport when they arrived, said: "Vietnam makes no distinction between voluntary and non-voluntary returnees, and the same policy applies to both categories." "Those people can rejoin their families and live normally like the others," he said, adding that "Vietnam will continue to oppose forced repatriation."

Of 111 originally due to leave under the new scheme, 88 dropped out Wednesday and Friday after rumours that returnees would be tortured in Vietnam.

Hong Kong is home to some 53,000 Vietnamese boat people, most of whom do not have refugee status qualifying them for re-settlement in a third country.

In mid-1988, Hong Kong introduced a screening program to separate those considered refugees from those classed as economic migrants and the latter were ineligible for resettlement.

Vietnam signed a voluntary repatriation accord with London in October 1988 and agreed early this year to accept up to 1,000 returning boat people a month.

Since the repatriation agreement came into effect in March 1989, 5,829 Vietnamese boat people have been repatriated by the UNHCR.

Delegation Attends Interim Mekong Committee

BK3011162490 Hanoi VNA in English 1523 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 30—A Vietnamese delegation led by Dinh Gia Khanh, vice-minister of water resources and president of the Vietnam National Mekong Committee, attended the 32nd session of the Interim Mekong Committee held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 to 30.

At a press conference on November 27, Vice-minister Dinh Gia Khanh, incumbent president of the Interim Mekong Committee, said the People's Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar [Burma] should participate in the programme for the Mekong River development in the interests of regional peace, cooperation and development.

For its part, he said, the Vietnamese delegation supports China's and Myanmar's participation in the programme in whatever form. He expressed the hope that Cambodia will soon send its representatives to the Interim Mekong Committee because the cooperation among the four countries in the lower reach of the Mekong River is necessary in the exploitation of the river for the development of transporation, irrigation and hydro-electric power.

Soviet Envoy Holds Press Conference 28 Nov

BK0312052390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] On 28 November, Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam Khamidulin held a periodic press briefing to inform our country of the situation in the Soviet Union.

Large numbers of representatives of mass information agencies of our country, the party Central Committee Department of Ideology and Culture and the Foreign Ministry, and foreign newsmen in Hanoi attended the briefing.

Ambassador Khamidulin recalled the prominent features of the recent political and socioeconomic situation. He also told Vietnamese and foreign newsmen that the congress of Soviet people's delegates will meet on 17 December to discuss and decide many important tasks of the Soviet territory. At the same time, he asserted the Soviet stand in its foreign policy relations of peace and neighborly friendship for mutual interest.

He answered many questions of newsmen about the relations of Soviet-Vietnamese economic cooperation and the Soviet stance toward the solution to the Cambodian issue and toward other diplomatic activities.

Australia

Government To Increase Gulf Naval Commitment

BK0412070890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Australia is to send two of its naval ships—the destroyer Brisbane and the frigate Sydney—into the Persian Gulf to provide air defense support in the event of hostilities. In a statement to parliament, the prime minister Mr. Hawke, said naval forces in the Gulf could face a serious threat there should there be conflict and the role would be hazardous.

Mr. Hawke also confirmed that Australia would send another two medical teams, totaling about 20 personnel, to join the two teams already serving on hospital ships in the Gulf. The prime minister said war was a terrible thing and everyone hoped for a peaceful resolution, but giving up the use of force would mean giving up seeking a resolution at all.

[Begin Hawke recording] We believe that it is therefore timely to send an even clearer signal. The clearest and the strongest signal that can be sent, that Iraq must leave Kuwait. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Returns From Pacific Tour

BK2511070090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The foreign affairs minister, Senator Evans, returns to Australia today after an eight-day visit to the Pacific. In New Zealand, Senator Evans had the Australian Government's first wide ranging talks with the new National Party government and he compared perspectives on the ANZUS [Tripartite Security Treaty Between the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, and the United States] defense alliance, the Persian Gulf and Fiji.

The foreign minister went to Vanuatu, where he opened an Australian funded improvements to the airport runway of the capital Port Vila, before visiting French Polynesia, Tonga, Niue and the Marshall Islands.

Senator Evans says he is very pleased to have become the first Australian foreign minister to have visited all members of the South Pacific Forum. The foreign minister was to have visited Fiji during the trip but the government in Suva withheld its invitation when he criticized Fiji's new Constitution in a speech to the United Nations.

Government No-Confidence Motion Defeated

BK0412072290 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The opposition has failed in a bid to censure the federal government for allowing their economy to slide into a recession. The opposition leader, Dr. John Hewson, moved a no- confidence motion against the government claiming that it has misled the Australian people about the condition of the economy.

Dr. Hewson called on the treasurer Mr. Keating to resign claiming the result of his policies had led to rising unemployment. Prime minister, Mr. Hawke, countered that his government had reduced inflation, cut interest rates, achieved a high budget surplus, and brought wages under control. The motion was defeated on party lines.

Deficit, Foreign Debt Rise in Past Quarter

BK2811130290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Canberra, Nov 28 (AFP)—Australia received more bad news Wednesday in official figures showing a rise in both its current account deficit and foreign debt for the September quarter.

The bureau of statistics figures showed rising imports and falling prices for wool and cereals forced the current account deficit up 19 per cent to 4.46 billion dollars (3.4 billion US) in seasonally adjusted terms.

The bureau also reported that gross overseas debt was 11.4 billion dollars (8.74 billion U.S.) higher than the 154.17 billion dollars (118.14 U.S.) in the previous corresponding quarter.

Net foreign debt—gross debt less foreign reserves—rose to 124.5 billion dollars (95.4 billion U.S.) in the September quarter from 122.77 billion dollars (94.1 billion U.S.) in the preceding June quarter and 116 billion dollars (88.9 billion U.S.) a year earlier.

However, a more accurate guide will be provided Thursday in national account figures which could show the economy to be in recession, defined as two successive quarters of negative growth.

However, Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Wednesday that whether or not the national accounts indicate recession in technical terms, the economy was poised for "considerable recovery" in 1991. He said he was "not running away from the word" recession.

"Obviously there has been a lowered level of activity and there has been pain in the community," Mr. Hawke told journalists in Perth. "But what I'm saying, and I'll repeat here, is that the economy will go into, I think, considerable recovery in 1991."

June quarter national accounts showed negative growth of 0.9 per cent and a second contraction in the September quarter would confirm a technical recession.

Fiji

Cyclone Sina Damages Principal Export Commodity

BK0412080290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0751 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Suva, Dec 4 (AFP)—Fiji may be unable to fulfil contracts to export sugarcane to Europe, Malaysia and Japan in 1991 because of the damage caused by Cyclone Sina last week, Finance Minister Josevata Kamikamica said Tuesday.

In a report to cabinet, the national emergency services committee said that the tropical storm caused damage exceeding 10 million Fijian dollars (7.66 million U.S.).

The storm struck parts of the main island, Viti Levu, and several outer islands frequented by tourists on Wednesday. It destroyed food crops, forests and between 50,000 and 90,000 tonnes of sugarcane—Fiji's principal export commodity.

Seawalls, power and telephone lines, roads and bridges were severely damaged, while schools, businesses, government offices, and airports were forced to close.

Fiji Red Cross Society Director Susan Douglas said emergency food supplies were being sent to small islands which were hardest hit.

Mr. Kamikamica warned the national economy strategy committee at a meeting here Tuesday that the country faced hard times if it failed to meet its export obligations.

Fiji produced some 475,000 tonnes of sugar last year. Exports brought in 230 million Fijian dollars (176 million U.S.). The country's biggest hard currency earner, tourism, yielded 280 million (215 million U.S.)

French Polynesia

French To Allow Greenpeace Boat on Mururoa

BK2811080990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Papeete, Nov 28 (AFP)—Greenpeace members who arrived here Monday aboard their vessel Rainbow Warrior II at the start of a new campaign against French nuclear testing in the Pacific will be allowed to land on Mururoa Atoll, the high commissioner for French Polynesia confirmed on Wednesday.

French military authorities in Paris said on Tuesday they were not opposed to the landing of Greenpeace representatives at the French nuclear testing site and were prepared to "show them living conditions on the atoll."

Jean Montpezat, the French high commissioner, said Greenpeace members would be able to land and could meet with officials in charge of monitoring environmental conditions on the atoll. He said that the captain and deckhand of Rainbow Warrior II who were refused permission to disembark in Papeete on Monday would be able to take part in the visit to Mururoa. Their situation was in the process of being sorted out, he said.

Captain Peter Willcox, an American, and Sue Ware, a New Zealander, were barred from coming ashore here because of a 1985 ban against them when as members of a Greenpeace mission they were arrested and deported from the region.

The aim of the current campaign is to assess the environmental consequences of more than 120 underground nuclear blasts on Mururoa, according to Greenpeace spokesmen. Rainbow Warrior II is scheduled to leave here Thursday for Mururoa Atoll.

New Zealand

Parliament Elects Robin Gray New Speaker

BK2811033490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0053 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Wellington, Nov 28 (AFP)—A veteran member of Parliament, Robin Gray, was elected speaker of the New Zealand Parliament on Wednesday. He gained the post following the swearing in of the new Parliament, which was elected in October.

Mr. Gray was led to the chair, putting up the symbolic struggle to get him there, representing the days when speakers could sometimes expect a grisly end because of their unpopularity.

In his first address as speaker, Mr. Gray promised fairness to all members and to uphold the dignity of Parliament. But with Parliament to be formally opened Thursday, the early signs were that dignity, as usual, would be in short supply.

As MPs left the chamber, and someone commented on Prime Minister Jim Bolger's election-night promise of 58 action-packed days before Christmas, former Prime Minister David Lange scoffed and said "55 action-packed minutes."

Solomon Islands

Mixed Ruling on No-Confidence Motion Issued

BK2411035590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1735 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Honiara, Nov 23 (AFP)—The Supreme Court in the Solomon Islands ruled Friday that the speaker of parliament erred in refusing a motion of no-confidence in Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni. But the attempt to unseat Mr. Mamaloni appeared to make little headway as Justice Gordon Ward dismissed opposition pleas that the speaker had exceeded his authority.

The court heard an appeal from former Deputy Premier Danny Philip, who was sacked on October 12, when Mr. Mamaloni quit the ruling People's Alliance Party and formed a new cabinet.

Senior PAP officials joined forces with the opposition and last week Mr. Philip tabled a motion of no-confidence in the prime minister.

Speaker Waeta Ben disallowed the motion on the grounds that parliament had already debated one motion of no confidence in Mr. Mamaloni this session and that the same motion could not be heard twice.

"The speaker contravened the mover's right to move the motion," Justice Ward ruled, "because the basis of the intended motion was different from that of a similar motion moved against Mr. Mamaloni earlier this year." But the court rejected three submissions from Mr. Philip that Mr. Ben had acted beyond his authority.

Mr. Philip argued that parliamentary standing orders allowed the speaker to rule on procedural matters and not on the Constitution.

Parliament has now adjourned until February.